7
Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI

Delicious in Dungeon

Ryoko Kui

7

7

Contents

Chapter 43 **Ice Golem** — 005
Chapter 44 **Barometz** — 031
Chapter 45 **Egg** — 059
Chapter 46 **The Golden Country** — 087
Chapter 47 **Griffin** — 121
Chapter 48 **Familiars** — 143
Chapter 49 **Griffin Soup** — 175
Bonus **Miscellaneous Monster Tales -7-** — 212

43. Ice Golem

ギゅう
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
ギゅう
GYUU
ギゅう
GYUU

HEY!!
LOOK OU—

THEY'RE STUCK UP AHEAD...
ガン
GAN (CLANG)
DON'T PUSH. DON'T PUSH!
MOVE IT, SLOW-POKE!

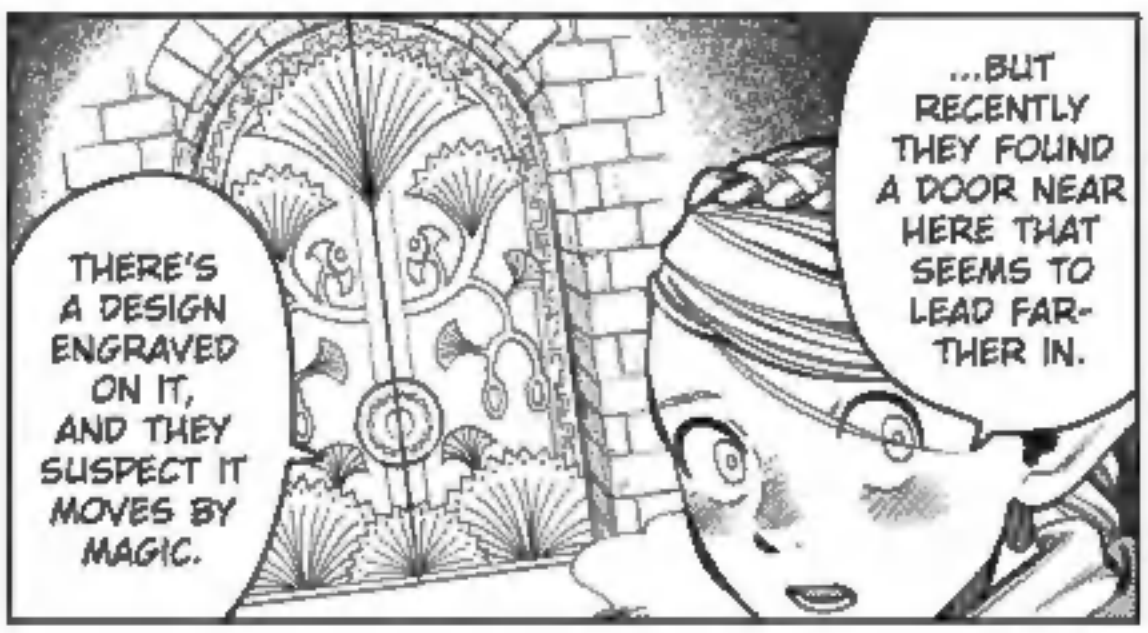
I TOLD YOU, THIS IS IT.
REALLY ...?

...WAS THE WAY ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

DOSA (PWUMP)
ドサ

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE ON YOUR LAST EXPEDITION?
ボスン
BOSUN (SHUMP)
YES.
FOR A LONG TIME, THIS WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE DEEPEST PART...

THIS HALL! THIS IS IT!
WHERE WE FIRST FOUGHT THE RED DRAGON!

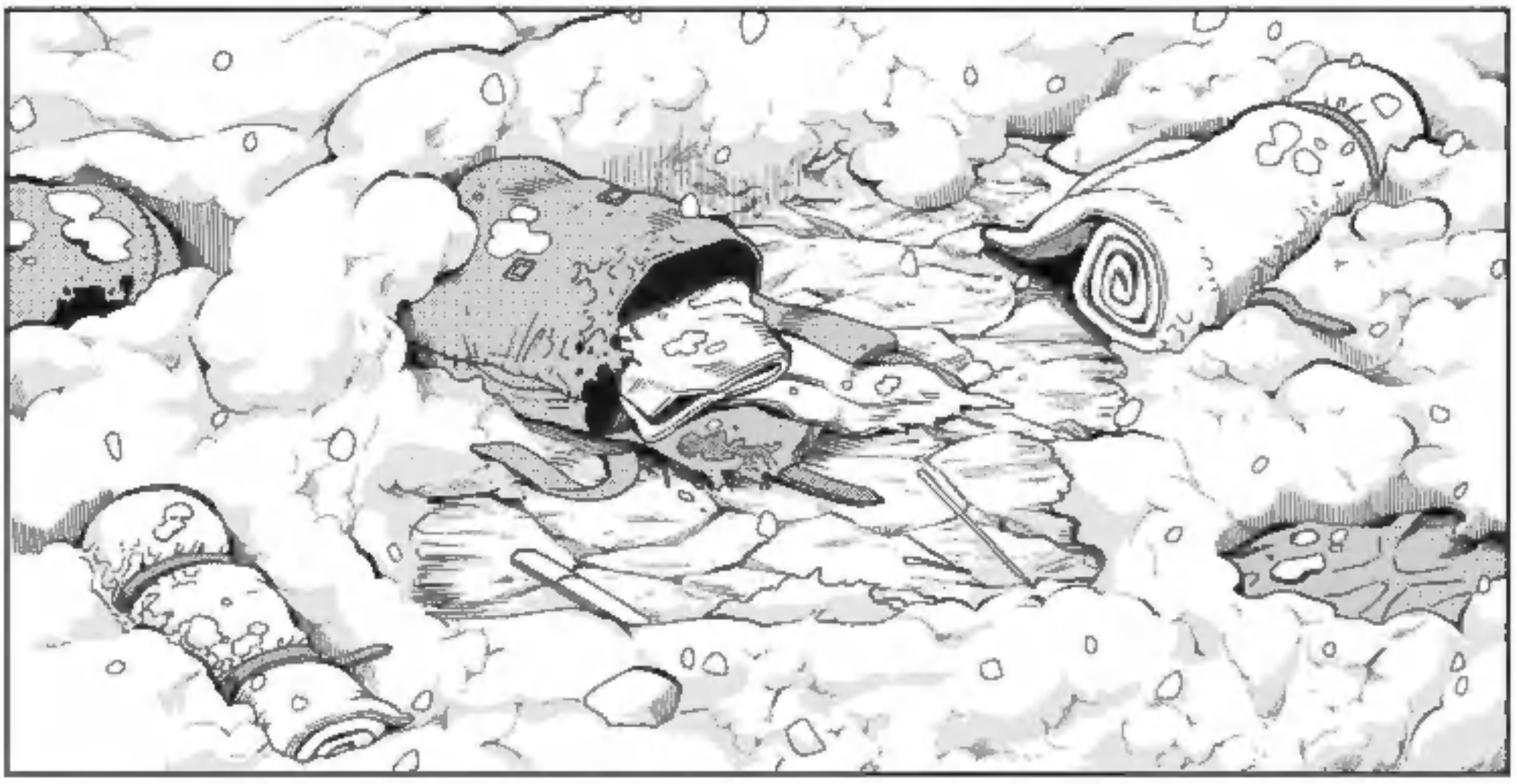

...BUT RECENTLY THEY FOUND A DOOR NEAR HERE THAT SEEMS TO LEAD FARTHER IN.
THERE'S A DESIGN ENGRAVED ON IT, AND THEY SUSPECT IT MOVES BY MAGIC.

YOU MET THE RED DRAGON AND RETREATED.

WE CAME TO GET A COPY OF THE DESIGN FOR THE LORD, BUT THEN...
HO!...

FOUND OUR STUFF!

I'M PRETTY SURE WE WERE OVER THERE...
OKAY. LET'S TRY OUR LUCK.



OH, GOOD. MY UNDER-WEAR'S SAFE TOO.
YESSS!
FOUND MY SLEEPING BAG!
THAT'S WHAT YOU LOOK FOR BEFORE MONEY AND VALU-ABLES?

NO...!
IT'S BEEN RAN-SACKED.

THAT'S NOT GOOD.
WHY DON'T WE FIND A PLACE TO REST FOR A BIT?
I'D LIKE TO GET MY GEAR IN ORDER.

EE...
EE...
NOW WE'LL BE WARM WHEN WE SLEE...
EHCHOO!
EHCHOO!
AH CHOO!

...BUT THE REST HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED.
GUESS MON-STERS DID THIS.
THE FOOD'S ALL GONE...
WHEW.

HEY. NONE OF THAT.
TAKE OUT WHAT YOU JUST PUT IN YOUR SHIRT.

GOSO (SHUFF)

SOMETHING NIBBLED ON MY SOAP!
I WONDER IF THE SNOW SLOWS THE CLEANERS DOWN.

TALK ABOUT A BADLY TRAINED BEAST-MAN.
NO WONDER THEY PUT THAT COLLAR ON YOU.

DON'T BRING COINS INTO THE DUNGEON.
HERE, MAR-CILLE.

SUCH A WEIRD RACE NAME...
THEY SAY YOU'RE CALLED THAT BECAUSE A LOT OF YOU GOT A FOOT CHOPPED OFF FOR THIEVING.

THERE AREN'T ANY LIKE YOU IN THE EAST...
...SO I DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL I CAME HERE.

.....
YOU'RE A HALF-FOOT, RIGHT?

COME ON, YOU TWO, STOP IT.

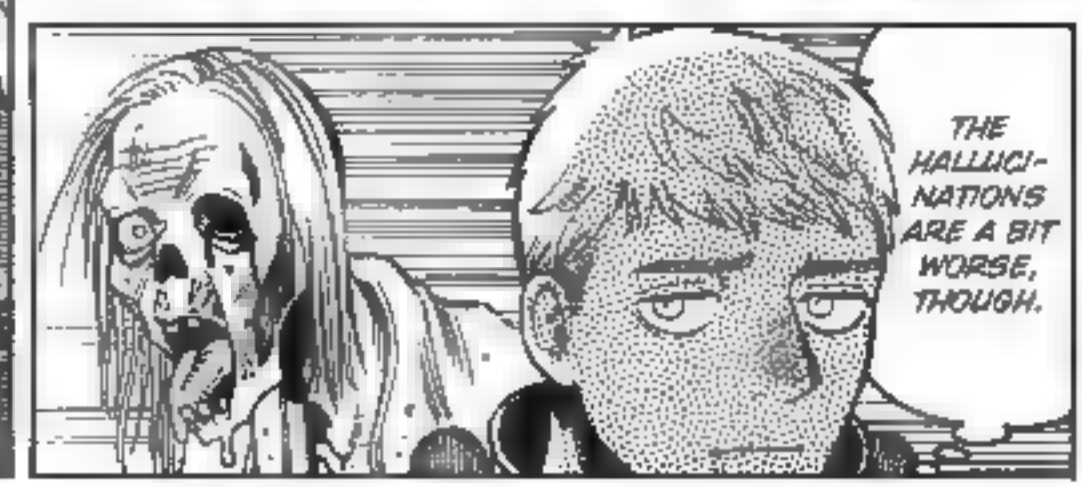
MARCILLE. COME HERE.

OH, OF COURSE. DO YOU WANT TO DO IT, LAIOS?
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO DRAW A MAGIC CIRCLE.

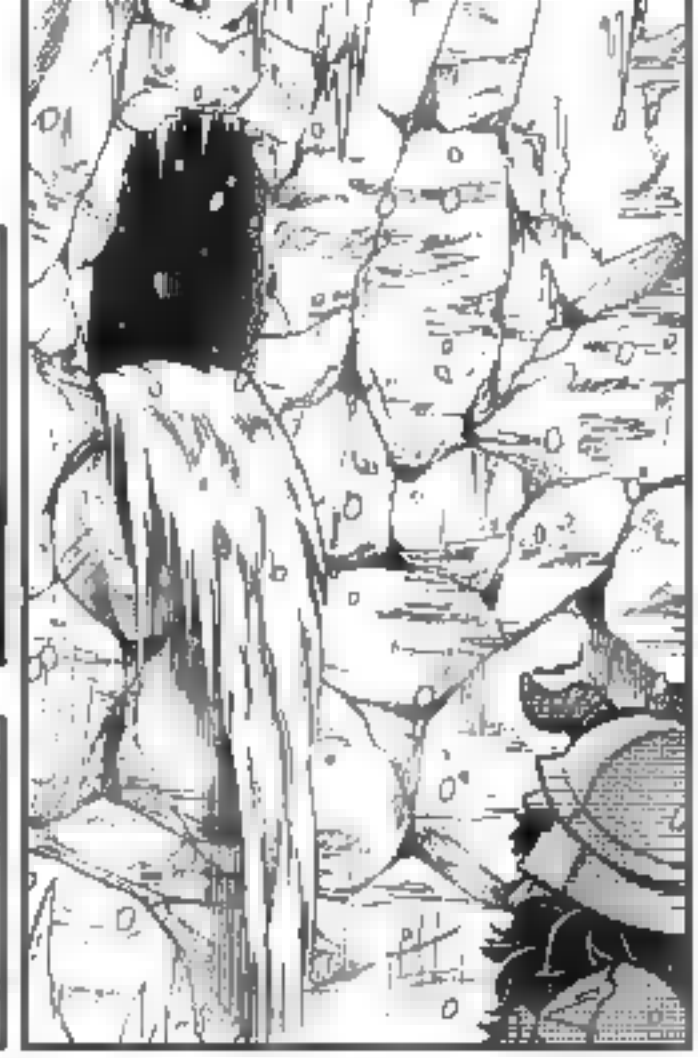
HM. IF I USE A MAGIC CIRCLE, MAYBE...
IS THERE A SPELL THAT COULD CUT OUT JUST THIS PART?
I'D LIKE TO FIX IT FOR THE CAT.

OH! A FISH!
THE SHARP TEMPERA-TURE CHANGE MUST HAVE ICED IT IN.

I DON'T GET DIZZY MUCH ANY-MORE.
HOW IS YOUR MANA SICKNESS LATELY?


THE HALLUCI-NATIONS ARE A BIT WORSE, THOUGH.

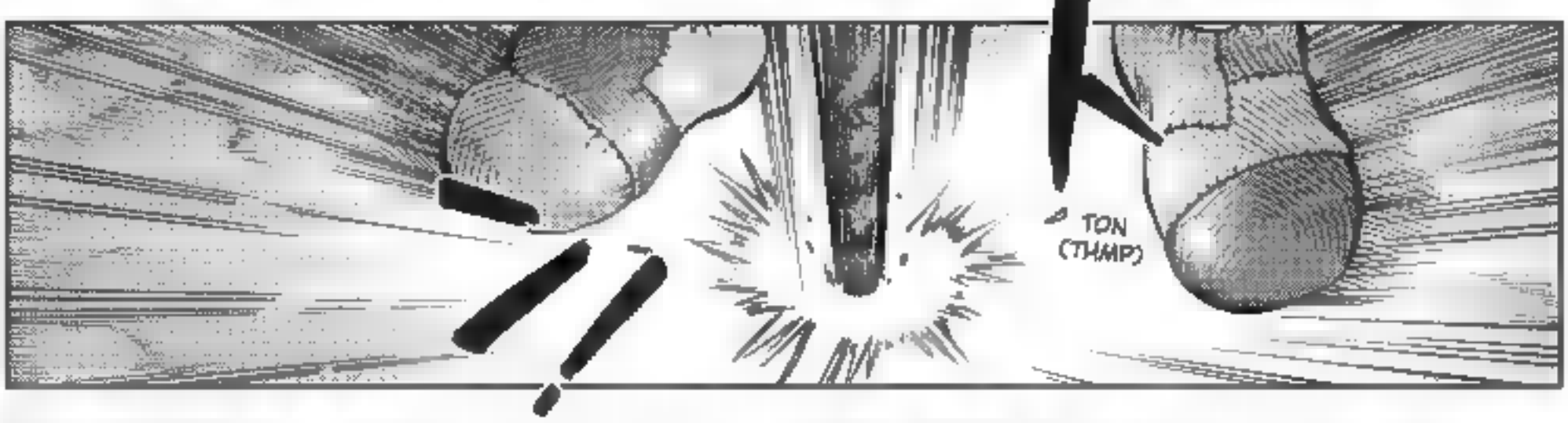
DID THE WATER FLOW DOWN FROM THE UPPER FLOORS AND FREEZE?
I OFTEN CAUGHT THOSE FISH ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL SORTS OF THINGS GET WASHED DOWN HERE.

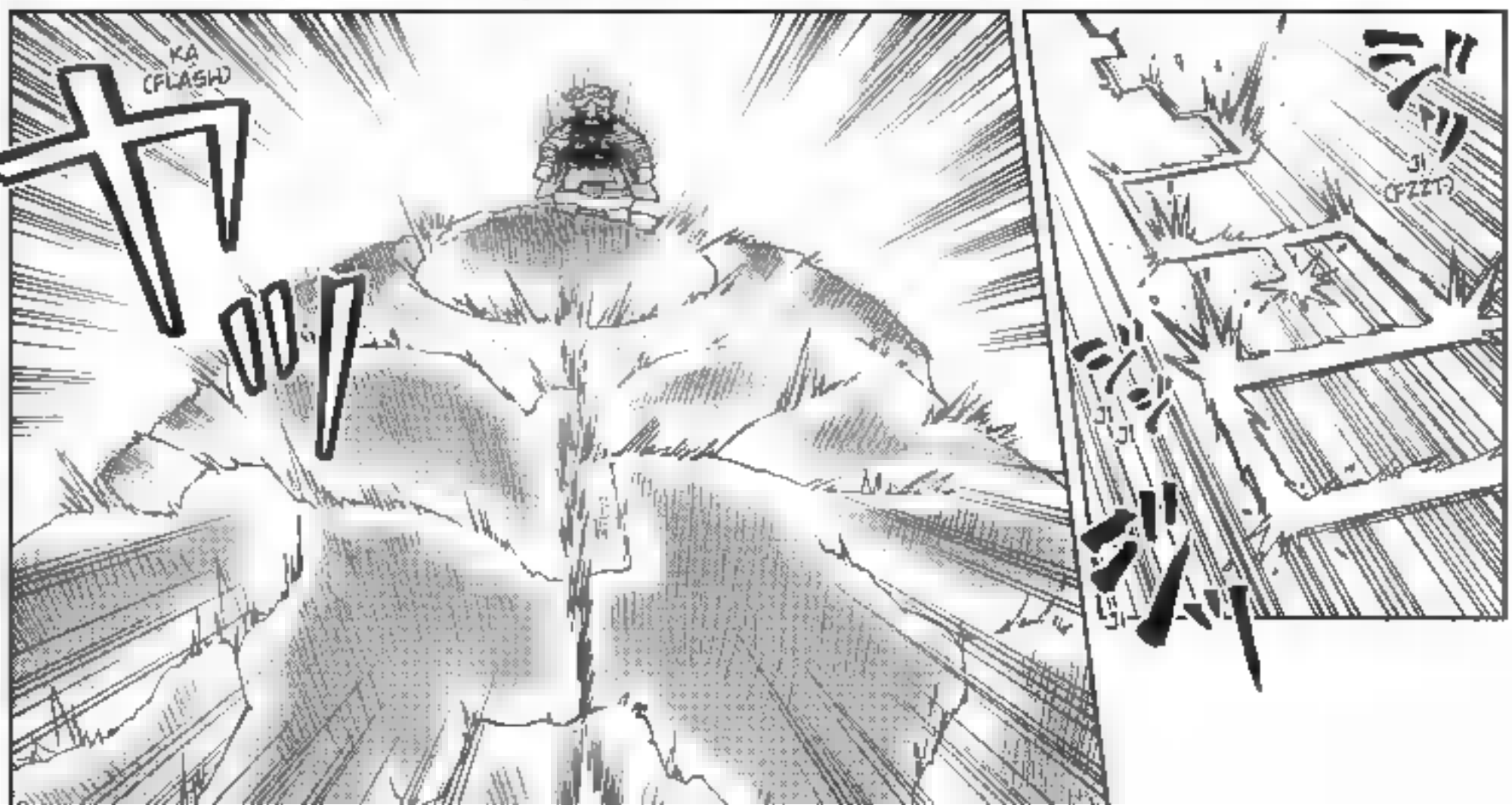


I'LL ACTIVATE IT, THEN.
VISUALIZE WATER FILLING THE SYMBOLS YOU CARVED, AND...

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
A LITTLE TIRED...

AND NOW THE CIRCLE'S COMPLETE.


TON (THMP)


KA (FLASH)
(FZZT)

DWAAH!?
DO (WHOOM)
DOGO
GO
GO (RMBL)
GO
GO
GO
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THE GROUND IS...
ZUN (THWOOM)
WHOA!

I SEE.

AN ICE GOLEM ...!?
A...A MON-STER !?

GAAA
RRRA

HUH !?
HEY! ABOVE YOU! WATCH OUT!!
AO
BIBI
BIBI CRATTLE
NGH!

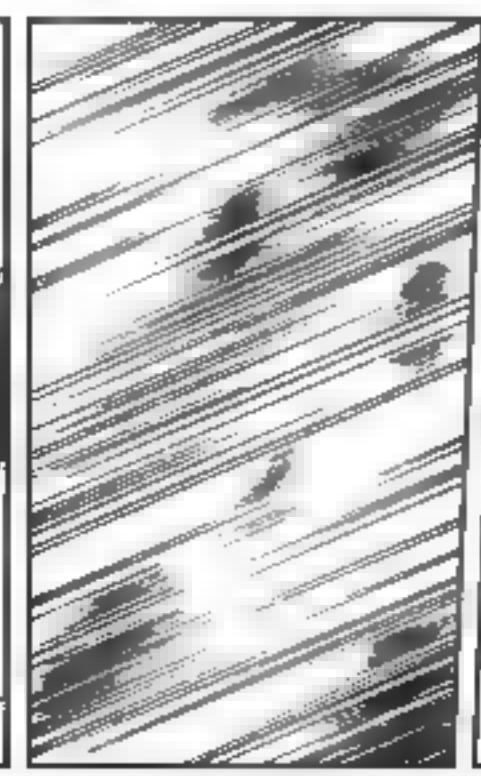
WHA...?
DO (THUD)
PAKIN (SNAP)
GHK!
LAIOS!
GUWA (LOOM)

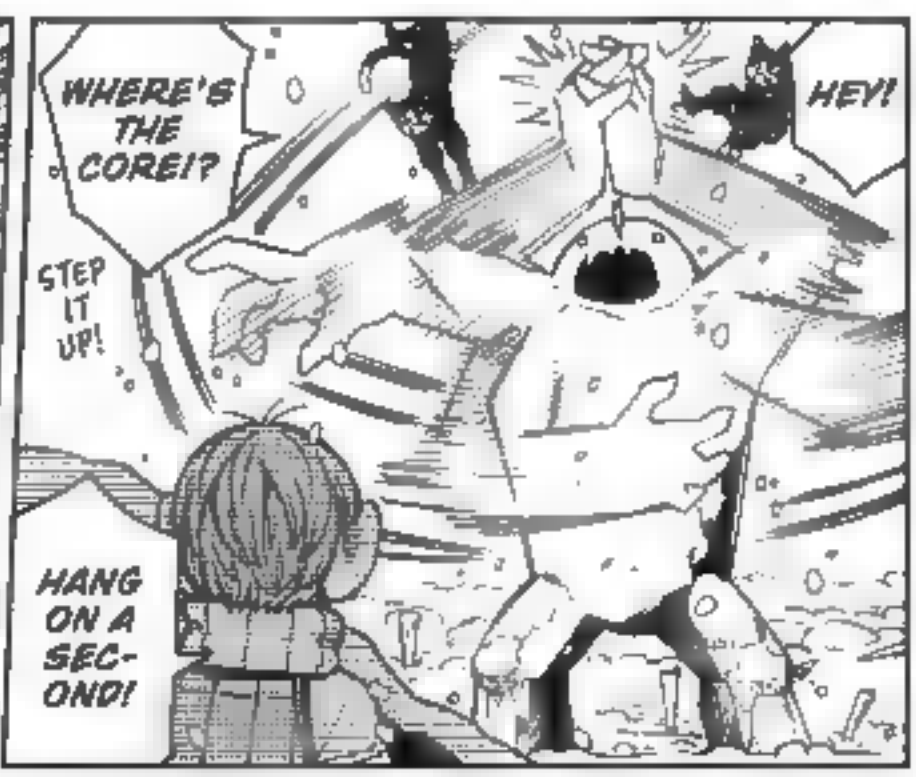
BA (LEAP)
TON (TMP)
SUTON (SHUP)
AGHI
ZUGAGAGA (SGRUNCH)
WITH GOLEMS, YOU HAVE TO BREAK THEIR CORE!
CORE
HOW DO I KILL THIS THING?
HM?
BUFUU (FSHHH)

BLION
(FOOM)

CORE?
WHERE'S THAT?

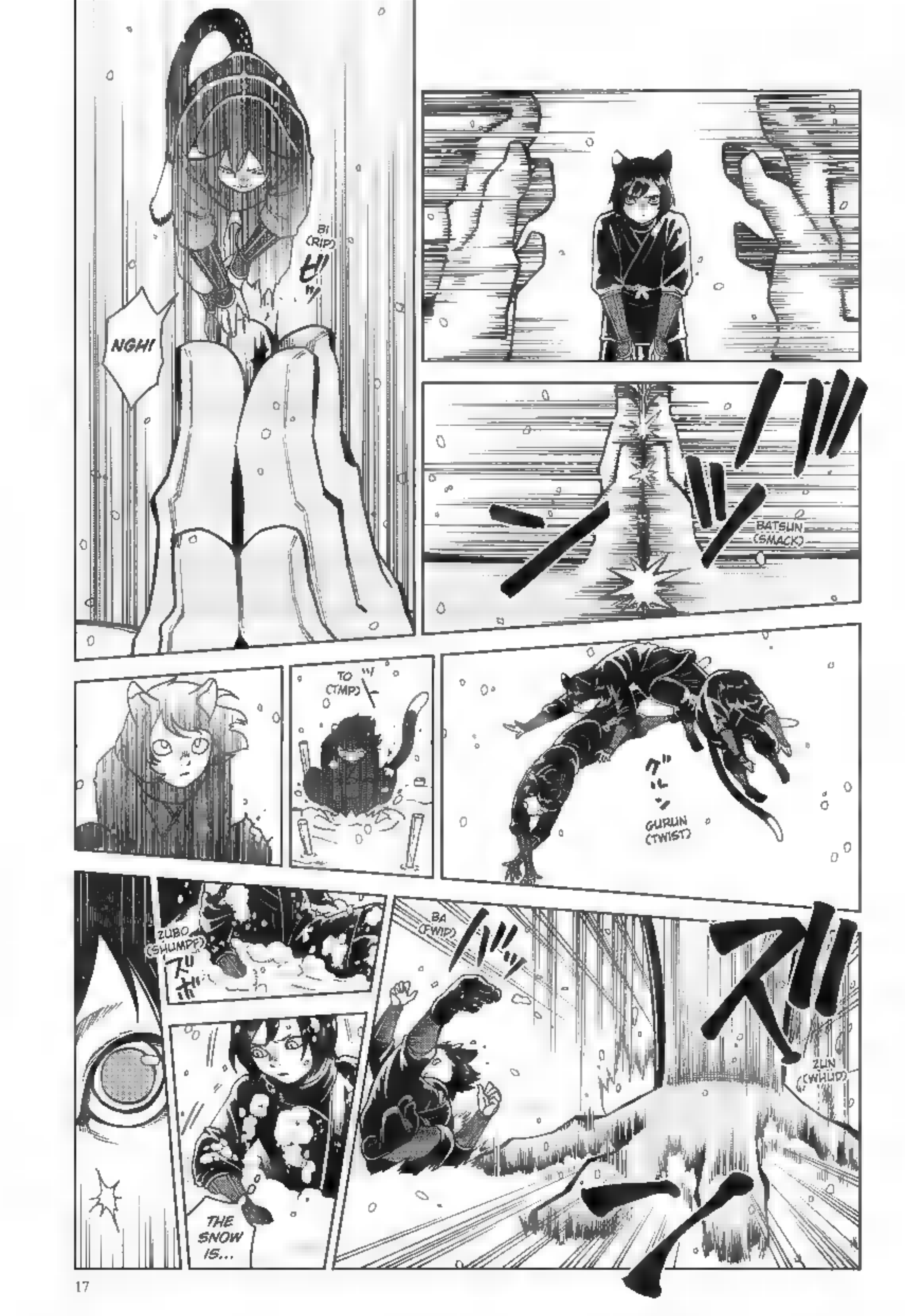
THE CORE... NO, THAT'S A FISH.
THERE'S TOO MUCH STUFF IN THERE.




WHERE'S THE CORE!?
HEY!
STEP IT UP!
HANG ON A SEC-OND!

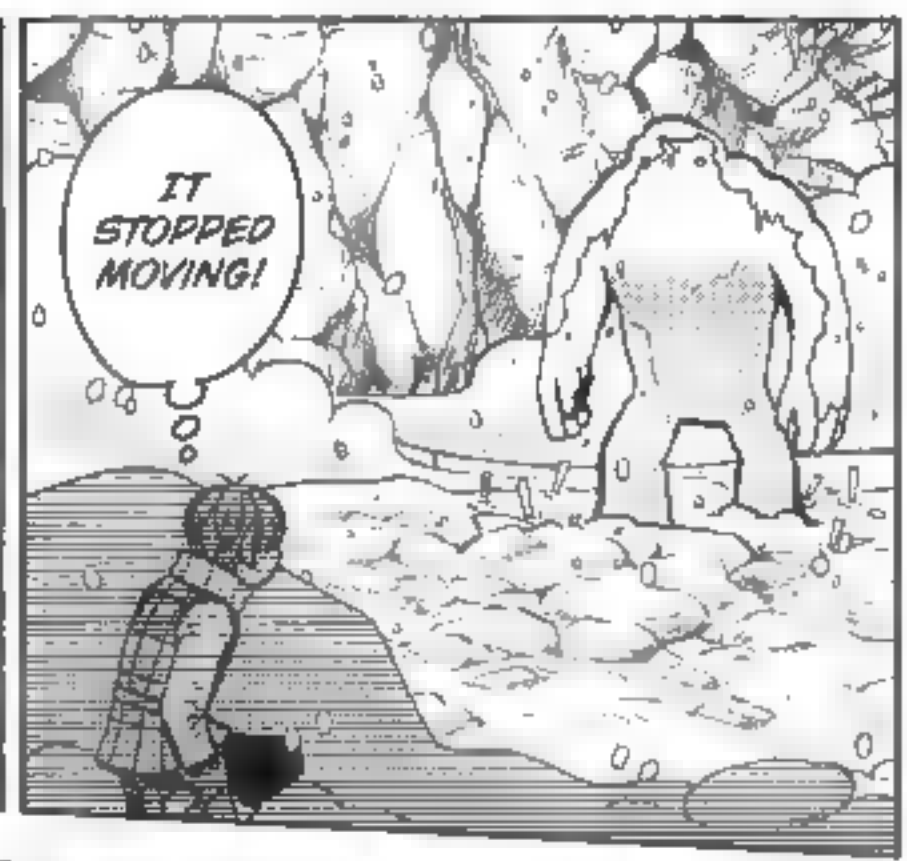
THAT JERK'S JUST MAKING STUFF UP.
HE'D BETTER NOT BE TRYING TO SABOTAGE ME.

I CAN'T TELL WHERE THE CORE IS!
HUH !?
HEY! HOLD THE ENEMY'S ATTEN-TION AND BUY ME SOME TIME!


NGHI
BI (RIP)
BATSUN (SMACK)
TO (TMP)
GURUN (TWIST)
ZUBO (SHUMPP)
BA (FWIP)
ZUN (WHUP)
THE SNOW IS...

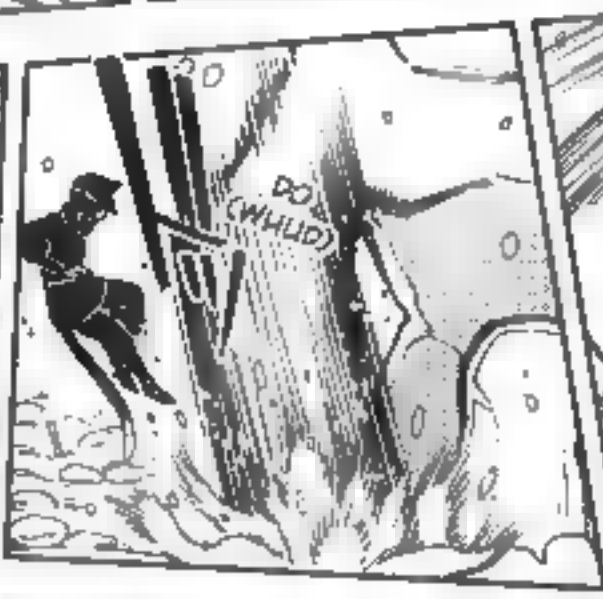
BO (FOOM)
SHIN (SILENCE)
DOSA
DOSA
DOSA (FWUMP)
KYORO (GLANCE)

MOZO
(SQUIRM)


IT STOPPED MOVING!

BWAH!

TON
(THMP)
TA
(TMP)
TO
(TMP)

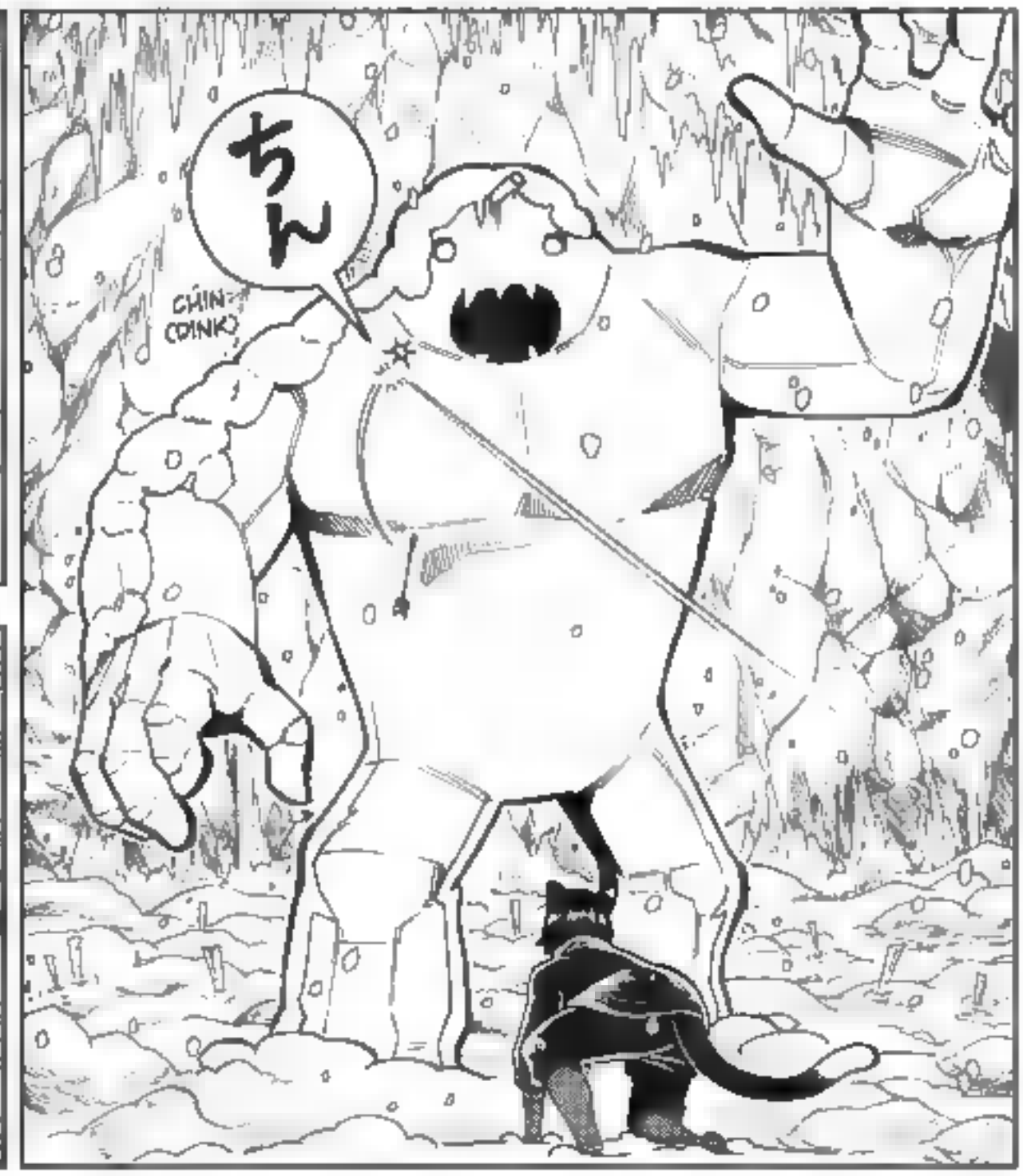

DO
(WHUD)

GUWA
(WHOOSH)

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME DO THIS!?
AREN'T YOU READY YET!?

GOOD! WELL DONE, IZUTSUMI!

YES!
PER-FECT!
PAN (SPANG)


ちん
CHIN (OINK)

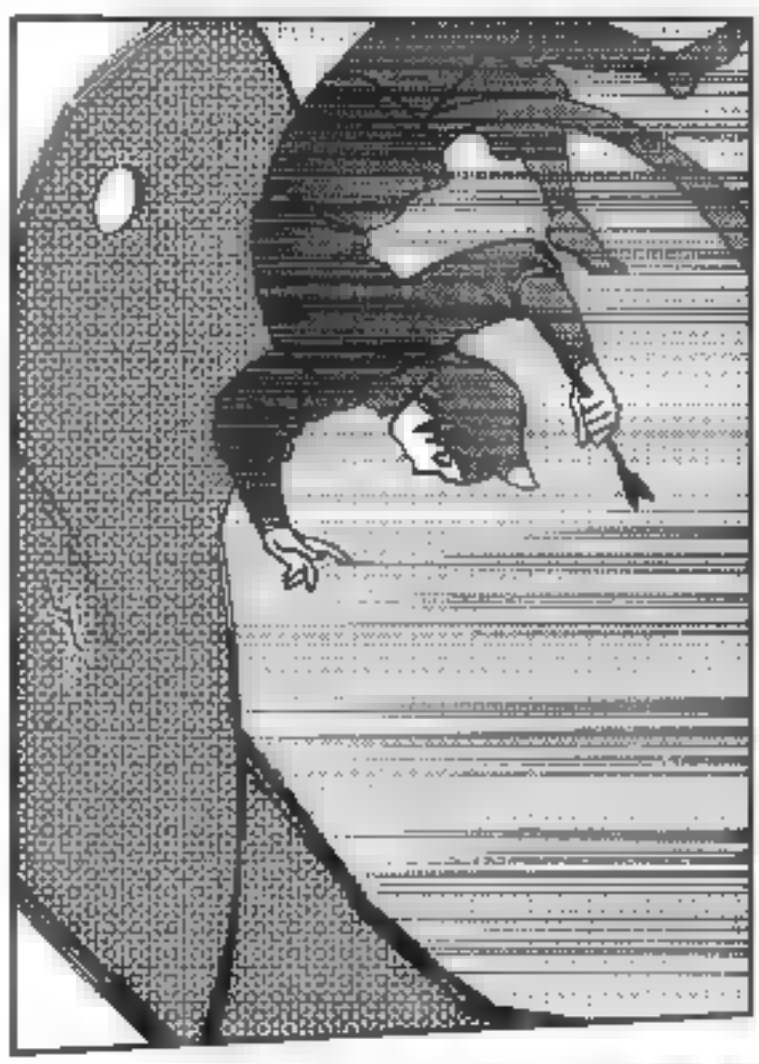
BAN (BAM)

...BUT NOT WELL ENOUGH TO DO MUCH DAMAGE...
...SO DON'T COUNT ON ME FOR HELP!
ALSO, I CAN USE PRO-JEC-TILES...

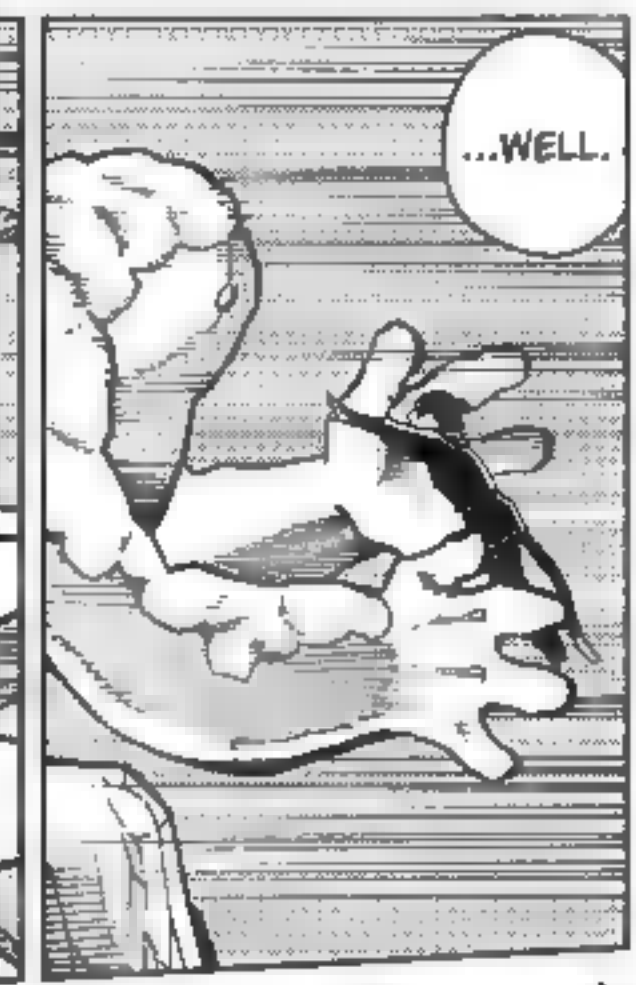
HEY! ARE YOU PLAYING AROUND !?
NO, IDIOT! LOOK AT WHERE THE ARROW HIT.

GU (GRIP)

WHA ...!?
SA (WHIP)
THE REST IS ALL YOURS.

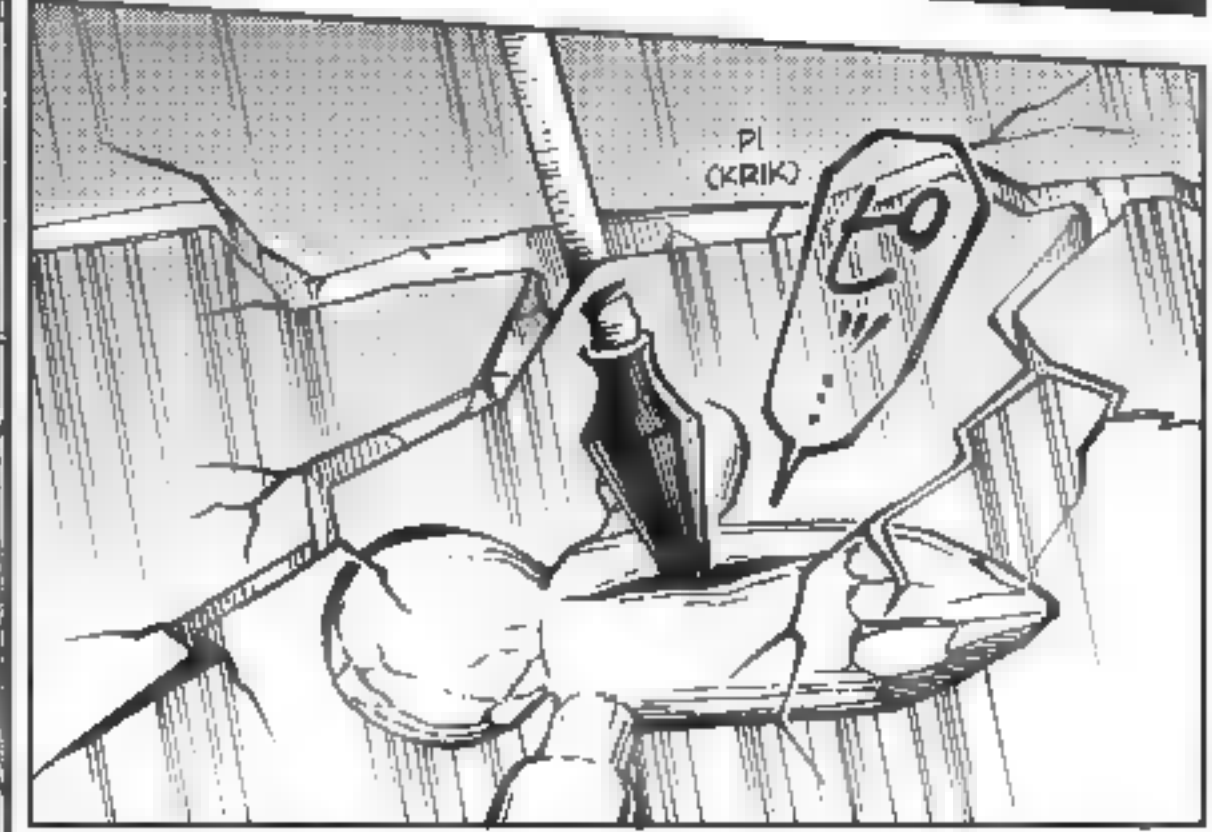


AS LONG AS I KNOW HOW TO KILL IT.


...WELL.

GATSUN (CHONK)

BISHI
BISHI (KRIKL)
BISHI

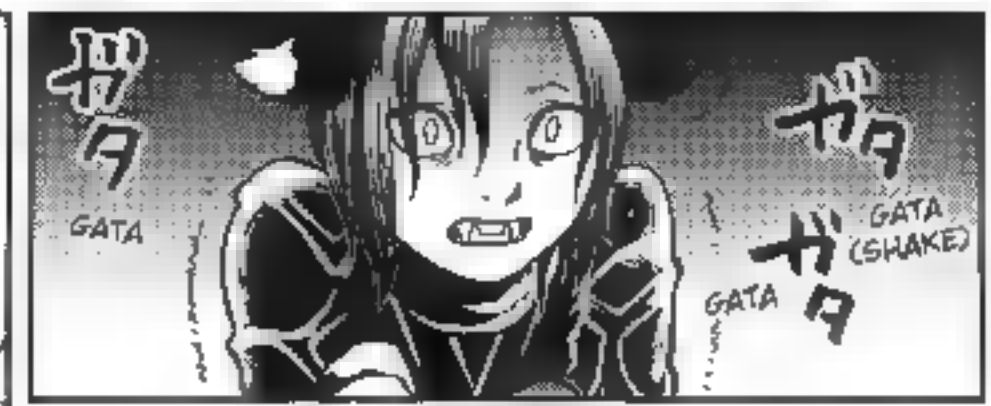

PI (KRIK)

GARA

GARA

GARA (CRUMBLE)

THAT MAGIC CIRCLE GETS REALLY HOT, SO DON'T GET BURNED.
IS EVERYBODY OKAY? IT'LL WARM UP SOON.


GATA
GATA
GATA (SHAKE)
GATA

GACHI
GACHI
GACHI (SHIVER)

LAIOS, CAN YOU CHANGE ON YOUR OWN?
UH...
SOME-BODY HELP HIM.

I'LL SCREEN YOU FROM THE REST.

TAKE OFF YOUR WET CLOTHES AND DRY THEM.
COME ON, YOU TOO.

BUT, I MEAN...

YOU DON'T NEED TO SCREEN ME.

SHURU (SLIP)
HAAH...

NOBODY CARES WHEN BEASTS GET NAKE—
GH!
MUGYU (SQUISH)
BA! (LEAP)
WAH!
WELL, UM, IT WOULD BE BAD IF YOU GOT CHILLED...
CREEPY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?
NO! THE BACK OF HER TAIL...
AT LEAST LET ME SEE HOW MANY NIPPLES...
I'LL MAKE SOME-THING HOT.
IT'S WARMED UP A BIT.

MAYBE I CAN MELT IT OVER THE MAGIC CIRCLE.

I'LL NEED TO THAW THIS...

WE HAVEN'T BATHED IN A WHILE. LET'S SWEAT IT OUT!

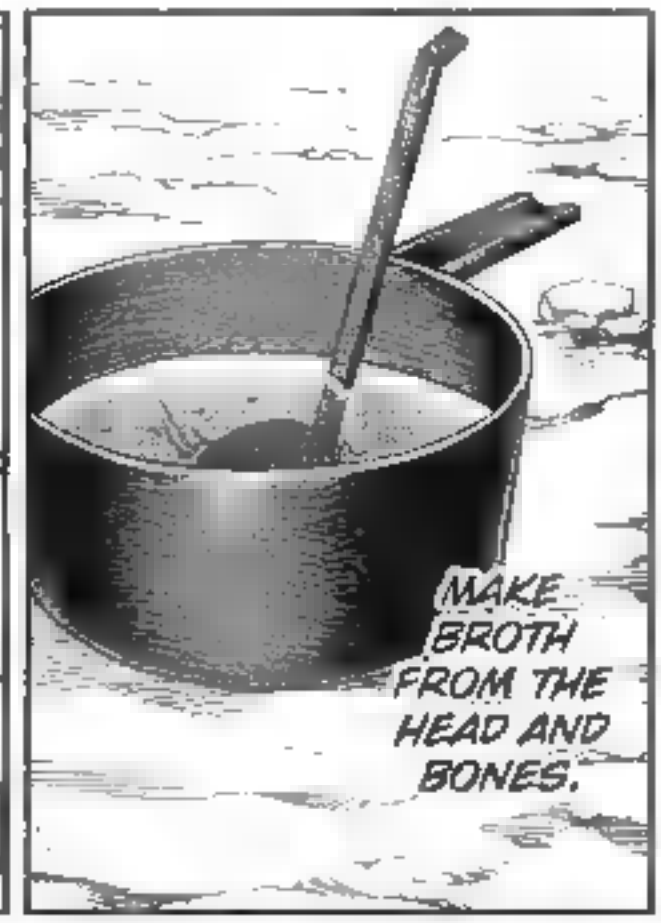
MUST HAVE BEEN TOO CLOSE.
OH, BUT THIS IS NICE.
LIKE A SAUNA.

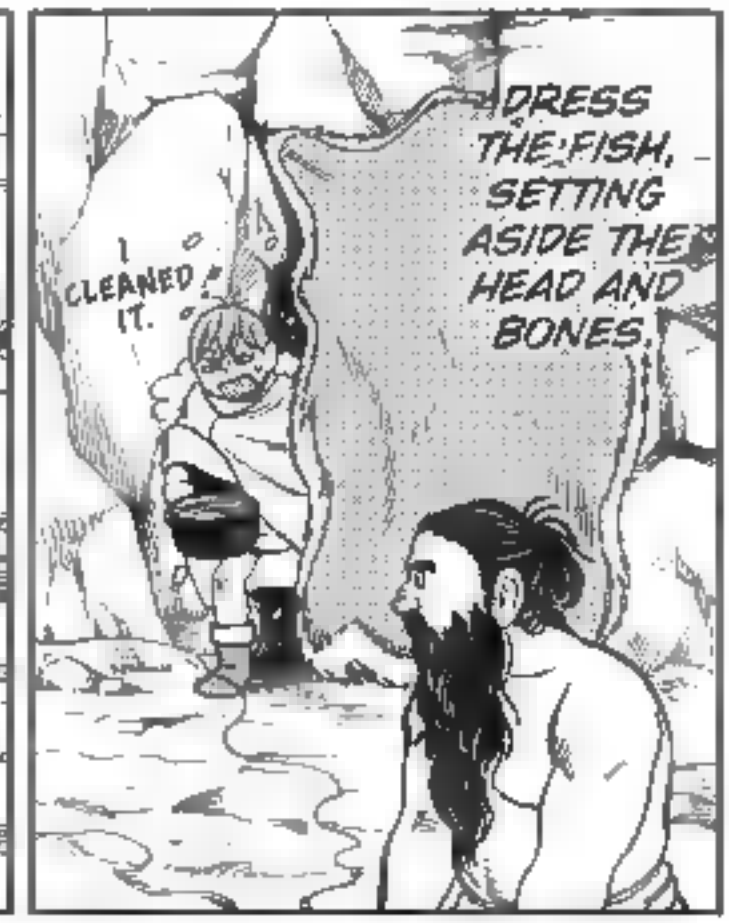
WHOA!
BUSHUU (FWOOSH)

WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S...?

HUH!? THAT COMES OFF!!?

OH BOY, OH BOY!
I BET WE'LL ALL SMELL LIKE FISH AFTER THIS...


MAKE BROTH FROM THE HEAD AND BONES.


I CLEANED IT.
DRESS THE FISH, SETTING ASIDE THE HEAD AND BONES.

SOWA (FIDGET)
SOWA

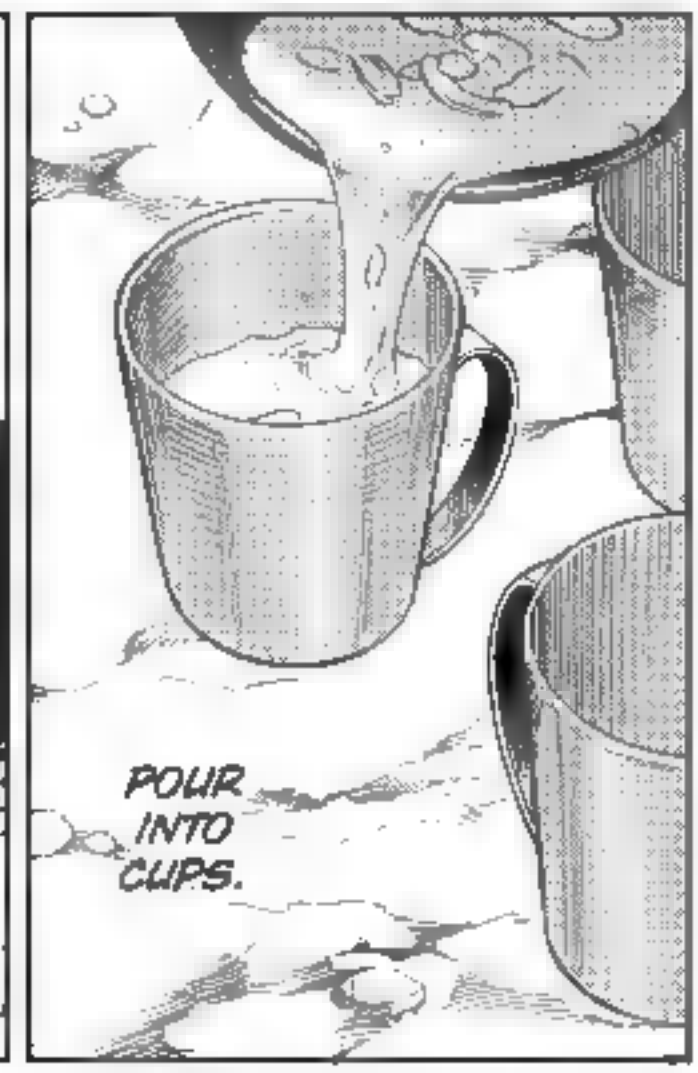
BEAT THE HARPY EGG...
...THEN ADD IT AND THE OTHER INGREDIENTS TO THE BROTH.

FINELY SLICE THE MUSHROOMS AND NIGHTMARES.
BRIEFLY BOIL THE SHAPE-SHIFTER MEAT, REMOVING THE SCUM.

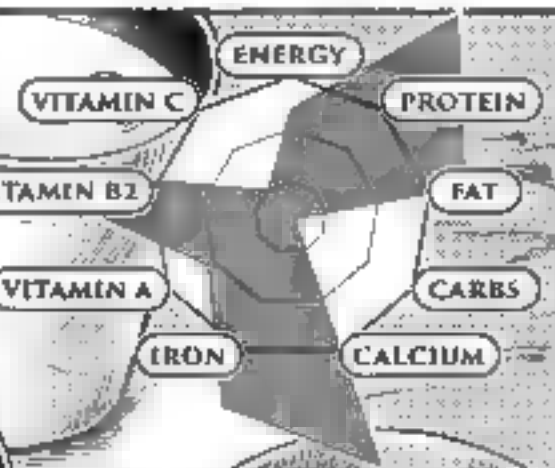
ARE YOU BORED?
I MADE IT OUT OF HER SHED HAIR.
LOOK.

IRA (IRKO)
IRA
IRA

SET THEM IN THE POT WITH SOME ICE GOLEM FRAGMENTS, THEN HEAT.


POUR INTO CUPS.

Ice Golem Savory Egg Custard and Cooked Fish (from In the Golem)



Ingredients

Ice golem fragments	As needed
Harpy egg	1
Broth	450 ml
Soy Sauce	1 tbsp.
Salt	A pinch
Nightmares	2
Mandrake leaves	1 bunch
Mushroom (not identified)	1
Shapeshifter meat	50 g

Ingredients

Ice golem fragments	As needed
Fish (not identified)	1
Butter	⅓ tbsp.
Salt and pepper	A pinch

LET'S EAT!

ALL RIGHT. NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE...

LOUSY WASTE OF TIME.
IRA (IRKO
IRA
IRA
KUCHA (SMACK)
KUCHA

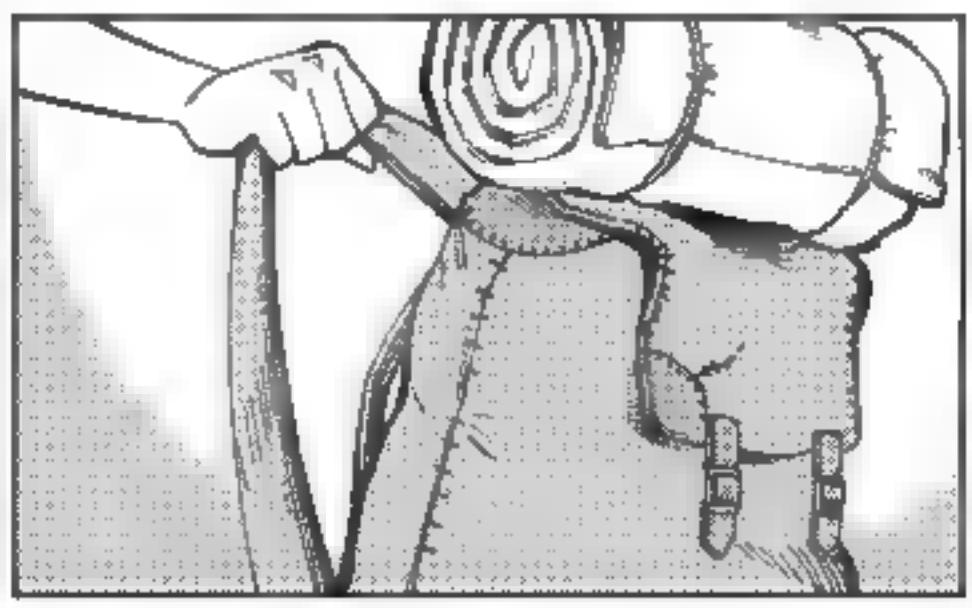
PITO (TOUCH)

OH! SORRY, MARCILLE.
YUM!

IT'S PUDDING.

I SEWED THE RIPPED BAG BACK TOGETHER.
YOU USE IT.

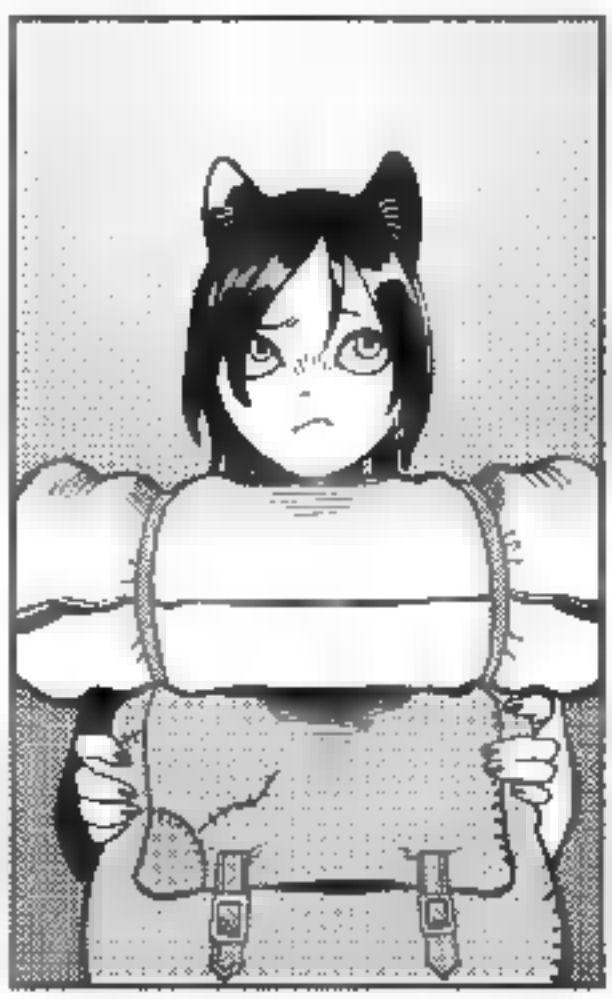
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT.
SA (SHF)
WHAT?
THIS IS FOR YOU.

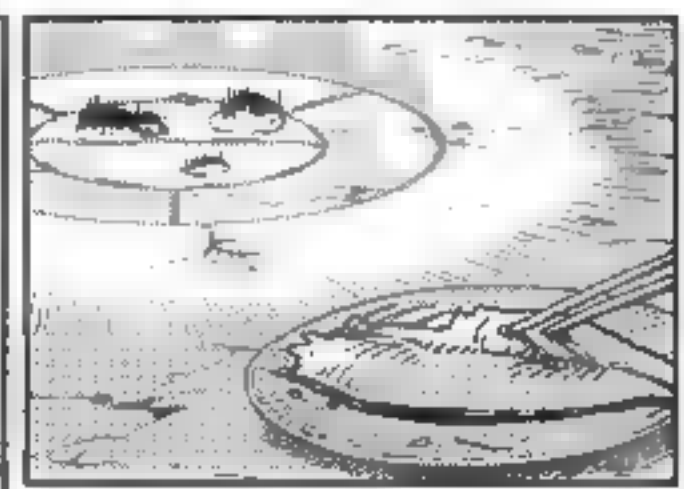


HEY, IZUTSUMI.

UH... SORRY FOR CALLING YOU AN ANIMAL.
I'VE GOT A FOUL MOUTH.

IT DOES HAVE ADVANTAGES, THOUGH.
YOU CAN LET OTHER PEOPLE HANDLE THE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO.
TRAVELING WITH A GROUP OF STRANGERS...
...MIGHT FEEL RESTRICTIVE AND IRRITATING FOR A WHILE.





I THINK THE FIRE MIGHT BE DYING DOWN.

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
...ANKS.

44. Barometz

SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

HEY. AREN'T YOU DONE YET?
JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
OKAY!
DO THIS WITH THIS BIT, AND...

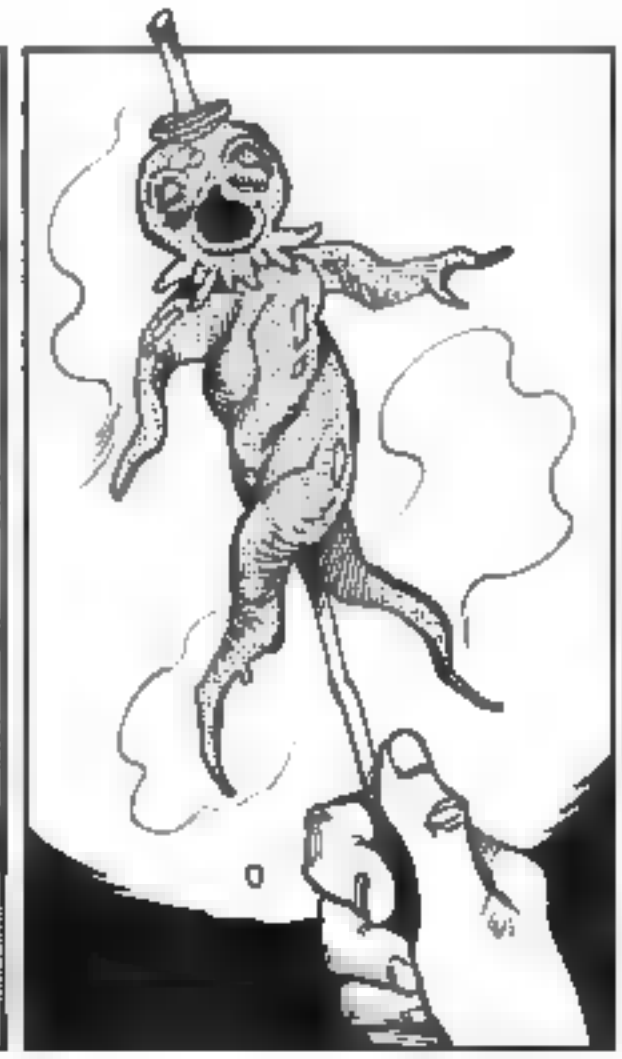
IRA
IRA
IRA
IRA

IT TOOK SOME TIME TO TAKE THEM IN, THOUGH.
THEY'RE HARD TO MOVE IN.
THEY WERE NAMARI'S. PERFECT, AREN'T THEY?

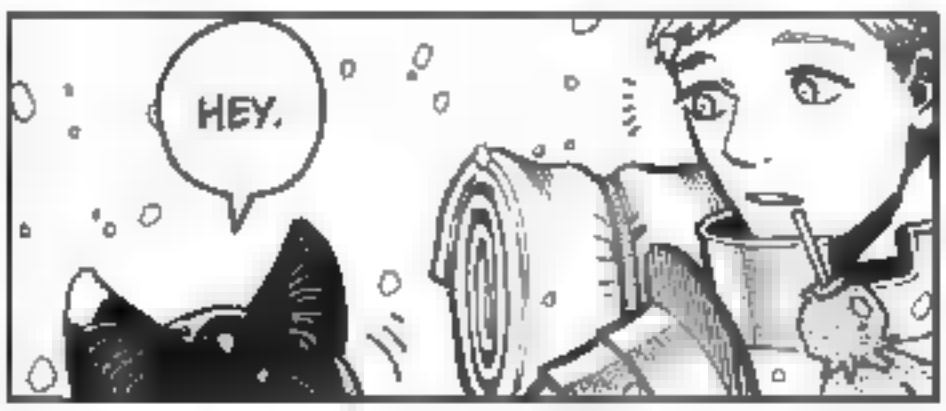
TA-DAAA!

I SAID I WAS SORRY.
I GOT ALL COLD AGAIN.
WELL THEN, LET'S HEAD OUT.

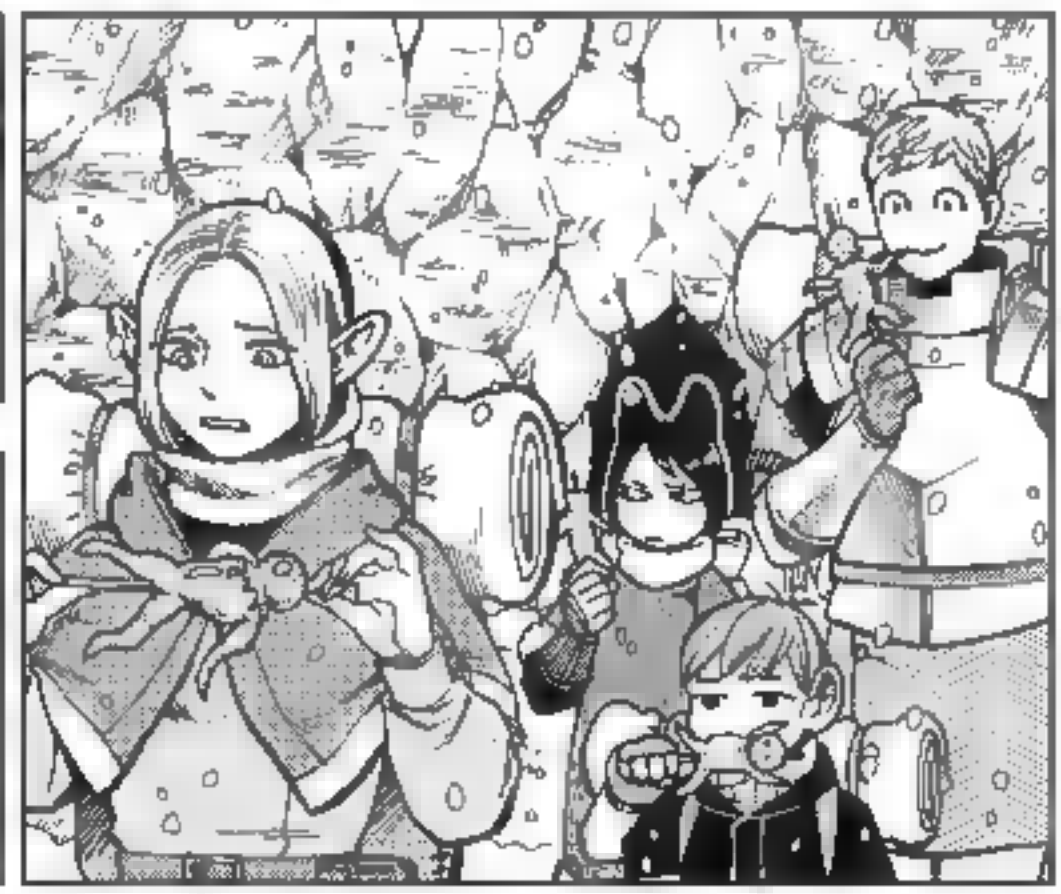
WOW...
THEY'RE MANDRAKES, BOILED AND SWEETENED.
I THOUGHT THEY'D BE GOOD TRAVEL RATIONS.



WAIT.


HEY.

HERE.



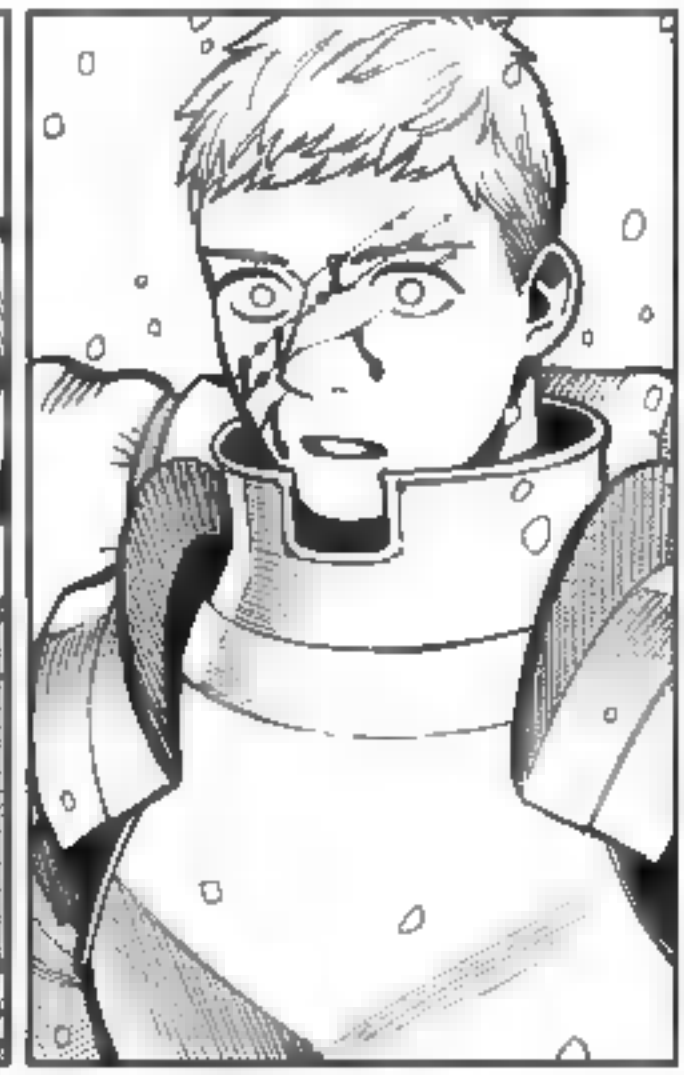
NO, COME ON, JUST TRY A BITE...
STUB-BORN SON OF A...!!

SAY "AAAH."
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
WHY NOT?
I SAID, I DON'T WANT IT.

THIS ONE'S YOURS.
I DON'T WANT IT.

I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
JUST LET HER BE. SHE'LL EAT WHEN SHE'S HUNGRY.

H-HOW MEAN!
HOW DID WE GET BLOODSHED AT A TIME LIKE THIS?



IF YOU EAT MONSTERS, YOU GET WEIRD DISEASES AND TURN INTO ONE.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO!

EVERY-ONE SAYS THAT.
HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM EATING ANIMALS?

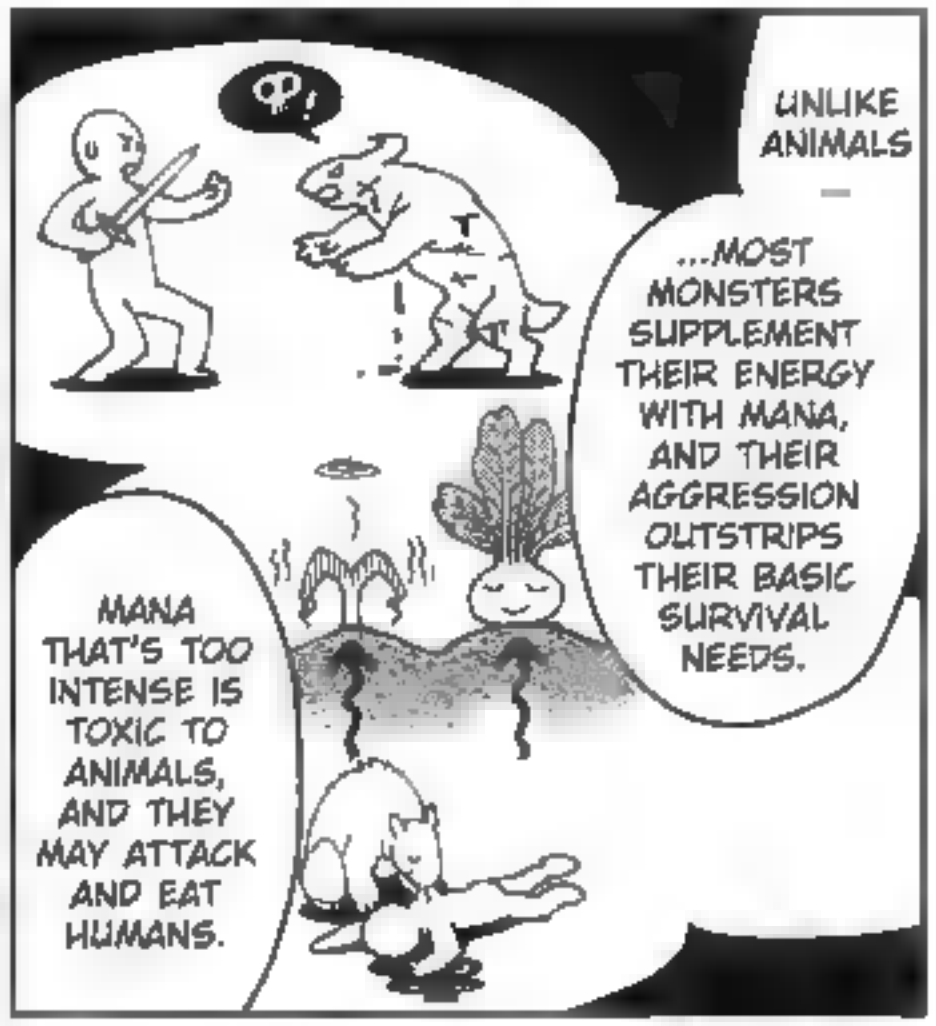
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT IT?
'COS IT'S A MON-STER.

WE KNOW IT ISN'T LOGICAL...
...BUT I THINK THAT'S THE REASON FOR MOST PEOPLE, ME INCLUDED.
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ABSORBING SOMETHING BAD SOMEHOW.

IF YOU COULD TURN INTO A MONSTER JUST BY EATING THEM, LIFE WOULD BE EASY.
WELL, THEY SEEM "UNCLEAN."

I SEE.
REALLY, I DON'T THINK "VAGUE REVULSION" CAN BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
NEW DISEASES CAN EMERGE FROM CREATURES THAT ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HUMANS.

THIS IS REALLY GOOD, ISN'T IT?


UNLIKE ANIMALS
...MOST MONSTERS SUPPLEMENT THEIR ENERGY WITH MANA, AND THEIR AGGRESSION OUTSTRIPS THEIR BASIC SURVIVAL NEEDS.
MANA THAT'S TOO INTENSE IS TOXIC TO ANIMALS, AND THEY MAY ATTACK AND EAT HUMANS.

BLEH.
LEEK

UP TILL NOW...

WHAT IF THEY SERVED A FOOD YOU DIDN'T LIKE?
WHAT DID YOU DO UP TILL NOW, THOUGH?

IT NEVER CAME UP.
NOW YOU'RE LYING!
LET'S GO, YOU TWO.

THANKS, IZU... ASEB!!

MOGU
MOGU

HERE, TADE.

I'M HUNGRY ANYWAY.
WANT TO CAMP HERE FOR TODAY?

LET'S FIX THE MEAL ON OUR OWN.
ZZZ...
IT LOOKS LIKE SENSHI'S TIRED TOO.

THIS BLIZZARD JUST ISN'T LETTING UP.

RICE, THEN!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH RICE LEFT EITHER.

THERE'S NO MORE FISH.
ANY FISH?

WHAT DO WE HAVE LEFT?
UH, NIGHTMARES AND MANDRAKES, EGGS, MUSHROOMS, AND...
WHAT IS THIS?

YOU SHOULD HURRY AND GET USED TO IT.

WE'VE BEEN EATING ALL SORTS OF THINGS ALL THIS TIME.

YOU CAN'T BE A PICKY EATER IN THE DUNGEON.

THAT'S ALL OF IT.

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING BETTER THAN THIS?

LIAR! I BET YOU'RE HIDING IT.

NO!

I ONLY EAT WHAT I WANT TO EAT.

IZUTSUMI, LISTEN.

EATING MONSTERS WON'T TURN YOU INTO ONE.

DO PEOPLE WHO EAT SHEEP OR PIGS EVER TURN INTO THEM?

IF A BLIND PERSON EATS AN EYEBALL, DO THEY RECOVER THEIR SIGHT?

SHEEP ONLY EAT PLANTS, BUT DO THEY TURN INTO THEM?

WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT, THEN!?

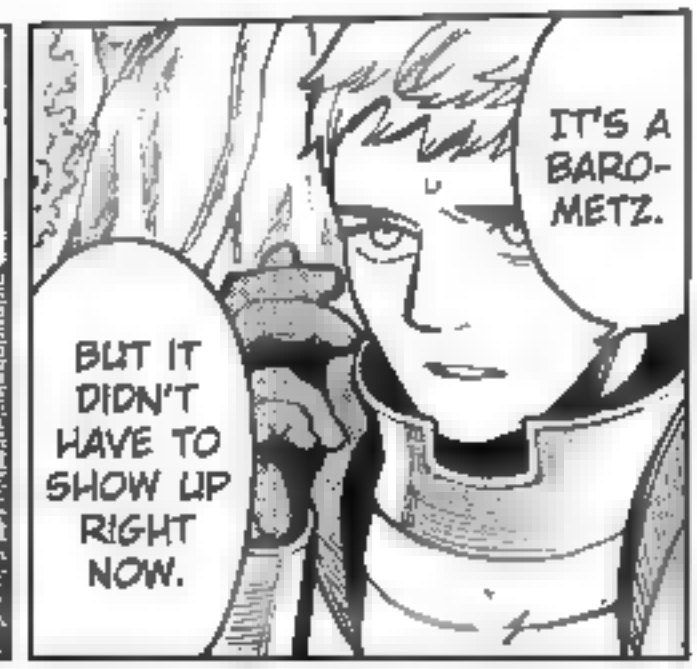
THAT...?

FOOD AND NUTRITION AREN'T THAT SIMPLE.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE WORKING HARD AND EXPERIMENT-ING.

SHUT UP! SHUT UP!!

LISTEN, IZU-TSUMI.
THAT'S A PLANT, AND IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE—
SHUT IT.
I'M SICK OF YOUR PREACH-ING.


IT'S A BARO-METZ.
BUT IT DIDN'T HAVE TO SHOW UP RIGHT NOW.

.....
THAT SHEEP IS A TREE.

IT DOES LIVE ON MANA, BUT...
...THE BAROMETZ ITSELF IS HARMLESS.
ONLY...

SO SHE'S FINE WITH THAT...
WHAT'S A BAROMETZ? IS IT A MONSTER?

I'M GONNA GO CATCH THAT SHEEP.
たっ
TA (LEAP)
THAT'S IT.

I KNEW SHE'D DO THAT.
YAGH!
ZAAA
W-WAIT...
ZU
ZU (SHF)
ZU
...THEY TEND TO ATTRACT CARNIVORES.
ZAZAAA (SKSH)
CARE-LESSLY GOING NEAR THEM ISN'T SAFE.
WHO DOES HE THINK HE'S TALKING TO?
KUN (SNIFF)
TAN (TMP)
BE CAREFUL, IZUTSUMI.
THEY'RE HERE.
HUH?
IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY HERE.
HARVEST THE SHEEP QUICKLY, THEN...
THAT SMELL...

GRRR!!

...

OH, COME ON...

SHA (SHING)
NOT GOOD. THEY'RE DIRE WOLVES !!
MAR-CILLE, GET BACK!

GRAA
ドガ
DO (SHUNK)
ヒィィィ!
キュ
KYU (WHIZ)
SOSOKUSA (DASH)
ハッハッ!
S-STAFF ...
STAFF ...

HOLD IT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING !?

YOU SAID "COMPANIONS" COMPENSATE FOR ONE ANOTHER, REMEMBER?
HUH? I "LEFT IT TO YOU."

.....
.....

I-IS THAT ANY REASON TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN?
THEY'RE SMELLY, NOISY, AND STUBBORN.
I HATE DOGS.

L-LET'S GO BACK, ALL RIGHT? IT'S NOT SAFE.
NOPE.

...NOT BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE GOLEMS...
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT. I DID LEAVE THAT TO YOU, BUT...
ARE THE OTHERS OKAY?

YOU DIDN'T FIGHT THAT GOLEM.
WHAT !?
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEANT...
THAT ...

THAT LOOKS COMPLI-CATED.
KUHI (SNIFF)
KUHI

!

THAT'LL TAKE ME BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM.
HYUU (WHOOO)
I SMELL FIRE ON THE WIND.

SUTA (STALK)
SUTA
WAIT...
OH!

I TAKE THE PATHS I LIKE.
YOU COULD JUST DO THAT TOO.

WH-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY?

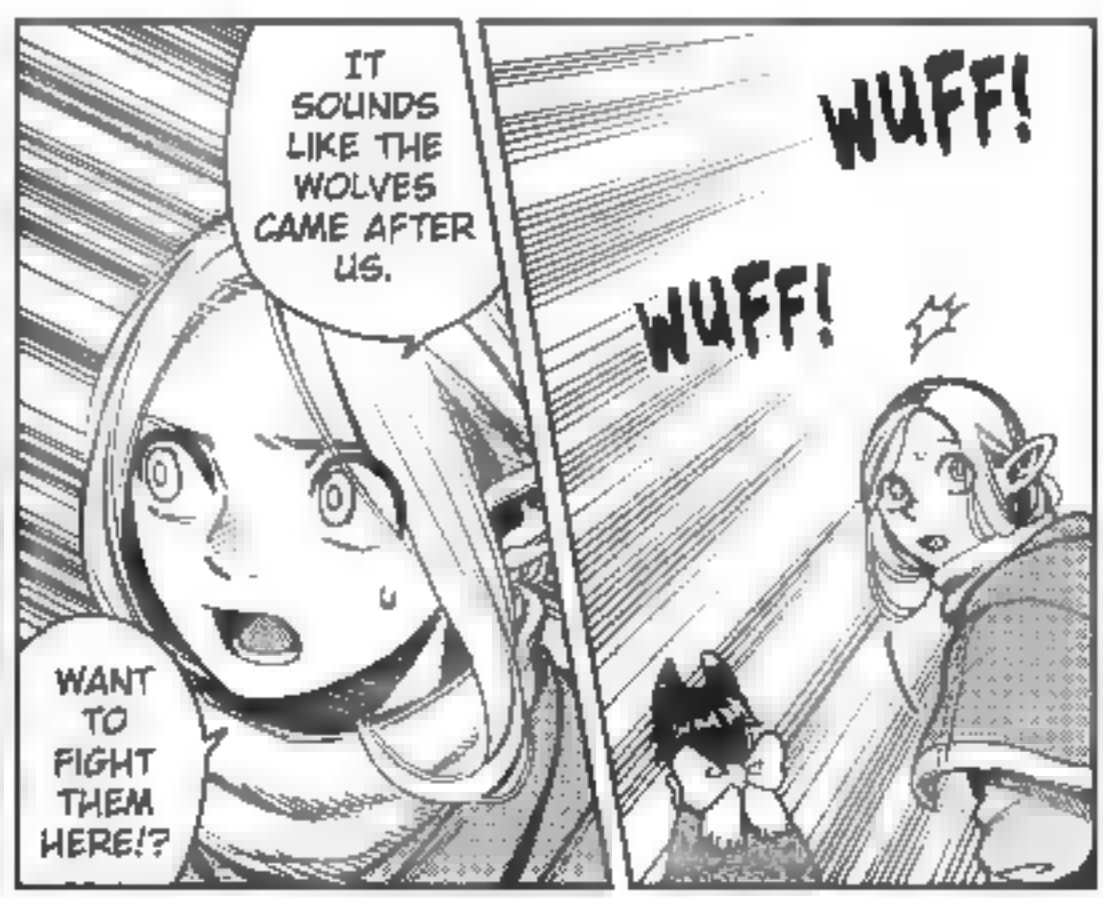
FUI (IGNORED)
THE SMELL'S STRONGER TO THE RIGHT. BUT...
OH.
...THAT PATH LOOKS ROUGH, SO I'M TAKING THIS ONE.

URK.
WELL, I...

YOU HATE EATING MONSTERS, BUT YOU DO IT ANYWAY.
THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR AGES NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU DO MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT?

I COULD USE BRIGHT LIGHT TO STUN THEM...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE MY STAFF, AND IT'S TOO CRAMPED FOR SAFETY HERE.
I CAN USE EXPLODING SPELLS...
BLAH...
BLAH...


IT SOUNDS LIKE THE WOLVES CAME AFTER US.
WANT TO FIGHT THEM HERE!?
WUFF!
WUFF!

HUUUHH

RFF!
WFF!

DA (DASH)
I'LL RUN AND LOSE 'EM.
HUH!?

BYUUU (WHOOSH)

PARA
PARA (CRUMBL)
DOON (BOOM)

OW, OW, OW...
HEY! ASEBI!

OUCH!
DOOON
.....

YOU'D THINK YOU COULD BE A LITTLE MORE GRATEFUL TO US FOR TAKING YOU IN.
DOSU (STOMP)
DOSU

SHE FELL OFF THE ROOF DOING THAT.
UNLIKE YOU, SHE'S CLUMSY.
DON'T FORCE JOBS YOU DON'T LIKE ONTO HER!

YOU MADE TADE CLEAR THE SNOW OFF THE TRAINING HALL ROOF, DIDN'T YOU?
NO.
LIAR!

BUT TADE WANTS...

WHY'D YOU DO THAT WHEN NOBODY ASKED YOU TO?
YOU REALLY ARE DUMB.

HEY, TADE.

TO
TO
TO (TMP)

BYUUUU
BACK THEN...
... WHAT WAS IT SHE SAID?
WELL, WHAT-EVER.

AH!
GABU (CHOMP)
ZU (SLIP)
DO (WHUD)
I BLEW IT.
THE EXPLOSION CHANGED THE WIND, SO I DIDN'T NOTICE IT.

GACHIN (CLANG)
MEKIN (CRUNCH)
BUN
BUN (SHAKE)
GRRAH!
FURA
FURA GIOTTERO
KYOSHU...
EEEEEEEE!

PA
(FLASH)
YIPE!
DOSA
(FWLIMP)

GU (STRAIN)
T-TOO CLOSE...

LET'S FIND THE OTHERS.

OW!
YOUR ARM'S BROKEN, ISN'T IT?
CAN YOU WALK?

IZU-TSUMI! ARE YOU ALIVE !?

YOU ASKED WHY I ATE MONSTERS.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT.

LISTEN...

...BUT ON THE WAY, I RUN INTO THINGS I DON'T LIKE.
SO I'M WORKING TOWARD THOSE GOALS...

I HAVE MULTIPLE GOALS.
I WANT TO SAVE MY FRIEND.
I ALSO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MAGIC.

...OR I'M TIRED, OR I HAVE TO EAT THINGS I HATE.
SOME-THING'S A PAIN, SAY...

JUST LIKE WE'RE DOING NOW.
WHICH ONE IS IT?

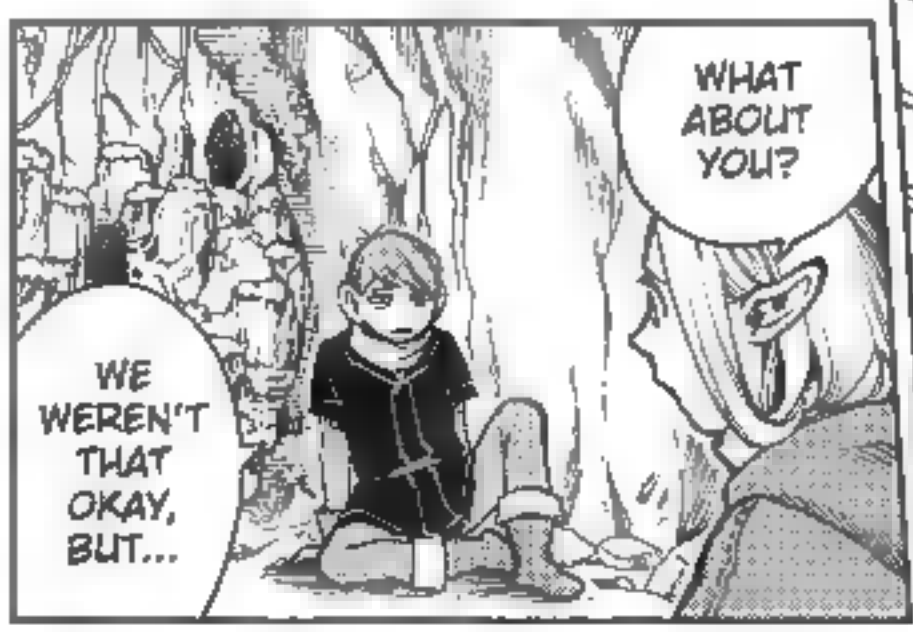
BUT IF I AVOID EVERYTHING I DON'T LIKE...
...I'LL GET FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM THE PATH. YOU SEE?

NONE OF THOSE IS A BIG DEAL ON ITS OWN.
EVEN IF AVOIDING THEM REQUIRES A [redacted] OF [redacted] DETOUR, I'LL STILL ACHIEVE MY [redacted]

...YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO TAKE A FEW SHORTCUTS.

...IF WE MET THE LUNATIC WHATSIT, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THIS SPELL OFF.
BECAUSE YOU SAID...
THIS ONE!
THAT'S RIGHT. SO...

WHY DID YOU COME WITH US, IZUTSUMI?


WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WE WEREN'T THAT OKAY, BUT...

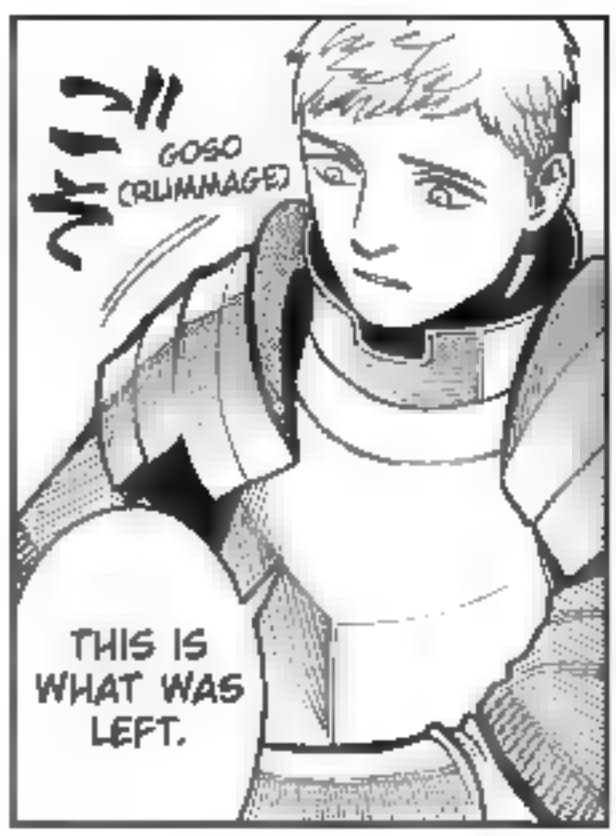
...LAIOS'S THREATS GOT US THROUGH.

IZU-TSUMI! MAR-CILLE!
YOU'RE OKAY?

GNYAAA!!!
MEKI
OKRIKO
MEKI

I'M GOING TO SET IT AND CAST A RECOVERY SPELL ON IT.
SHE BROKE HER ARM.
HELP ME.
HURRY UP.
OK

MOST OF THE WOLVES WENT AFTER YOU, MARCILLE.
DID YOU GET HURT?

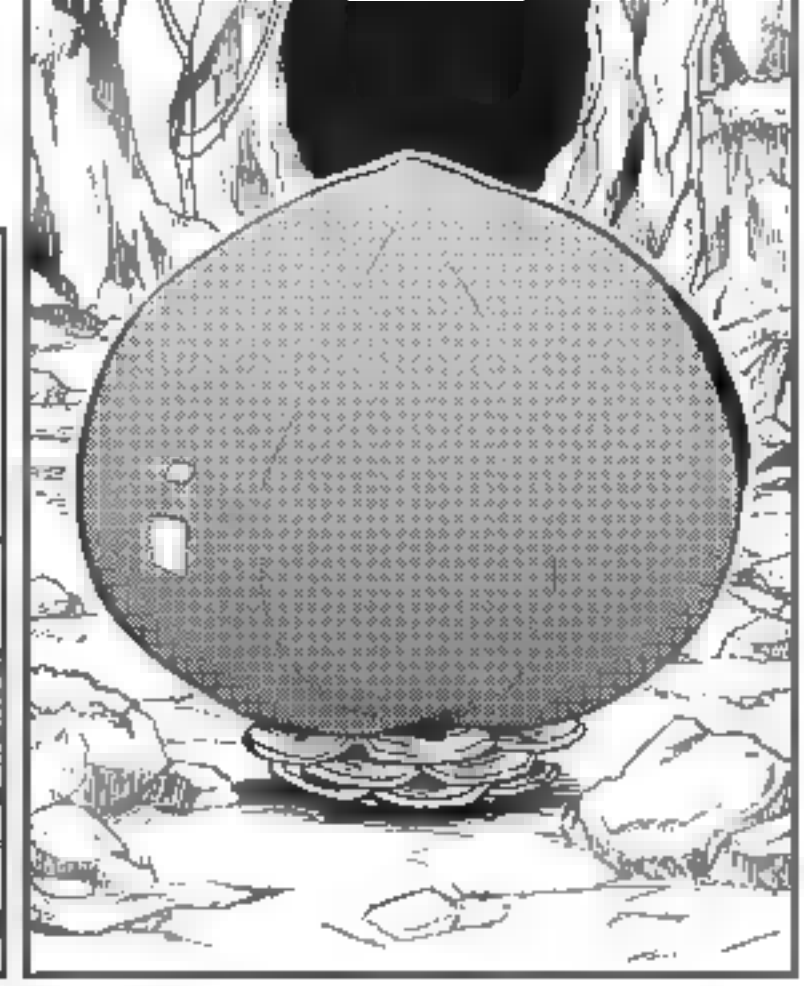

GOSO (RUMMAGE)
THIS IS WHAT WAS LEFT.

I WANTED TO HARVEST A BAROMETZ ...
...BUT THE WOLVES MADE OFF WITH THE ADULT.

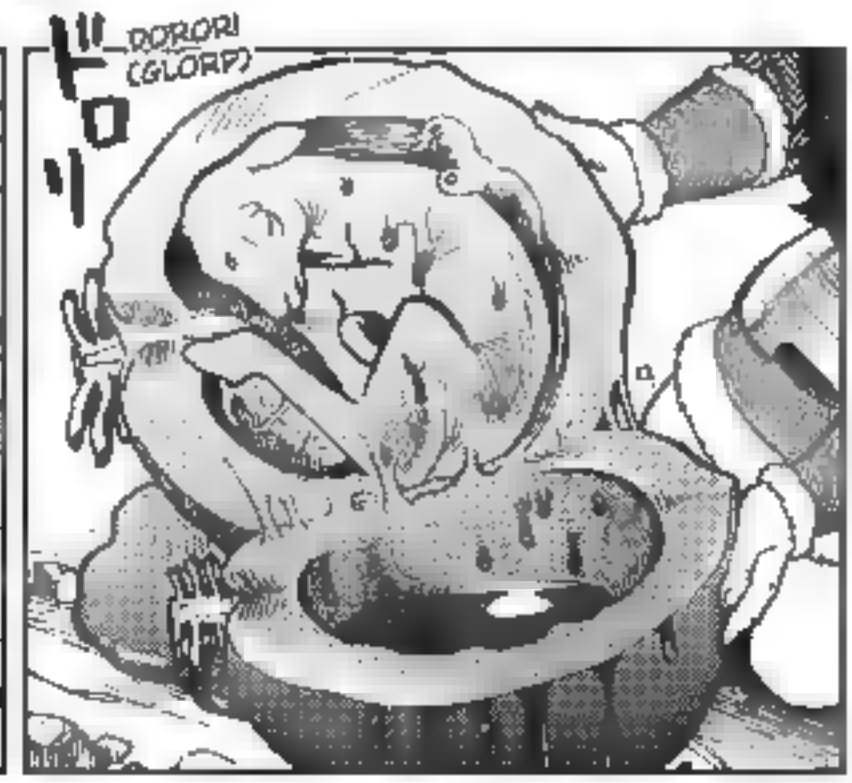
YOU DID GREAT. IT WON'T HURT FOR LONG.
THE RECOVERY SPELL HURT WORSE...

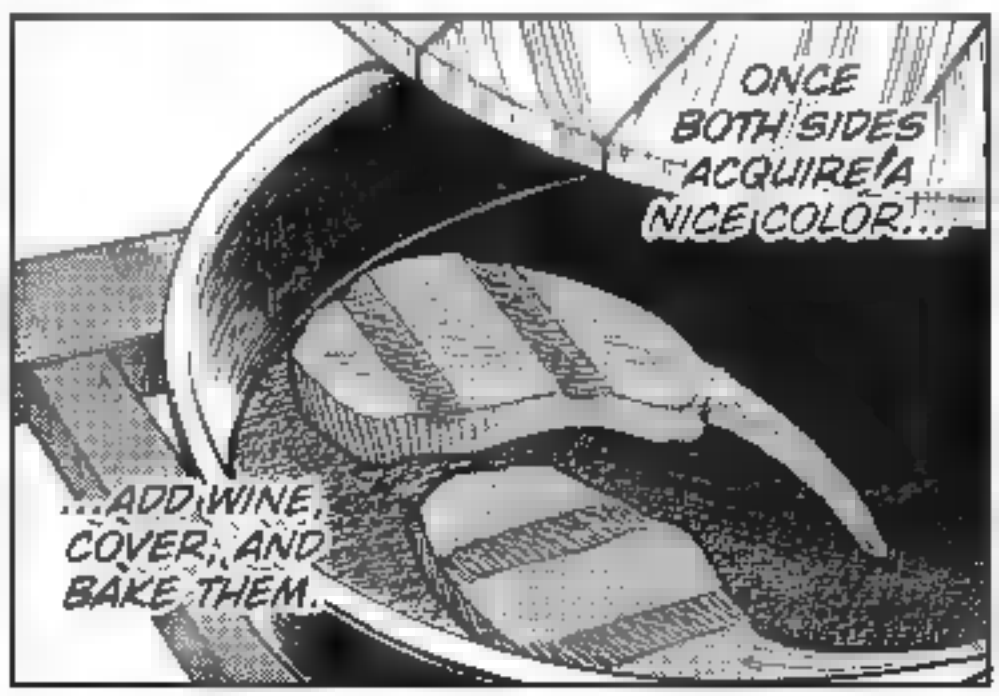
PU SAK

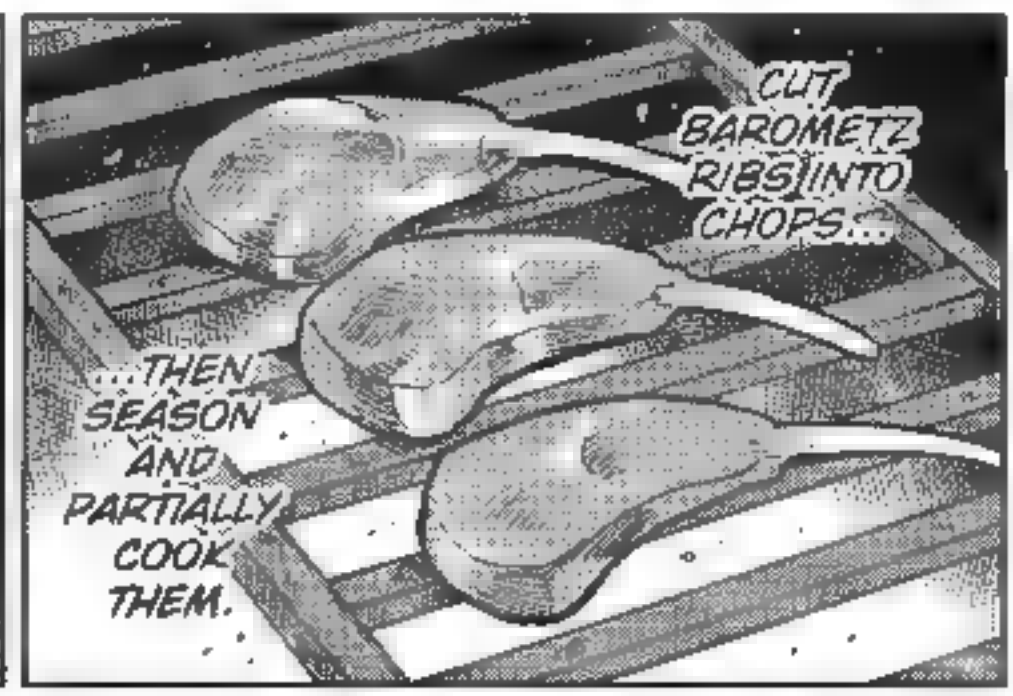
LET'S TRY COOK-ING IT.
IT'S NOT RIPE, BUT...



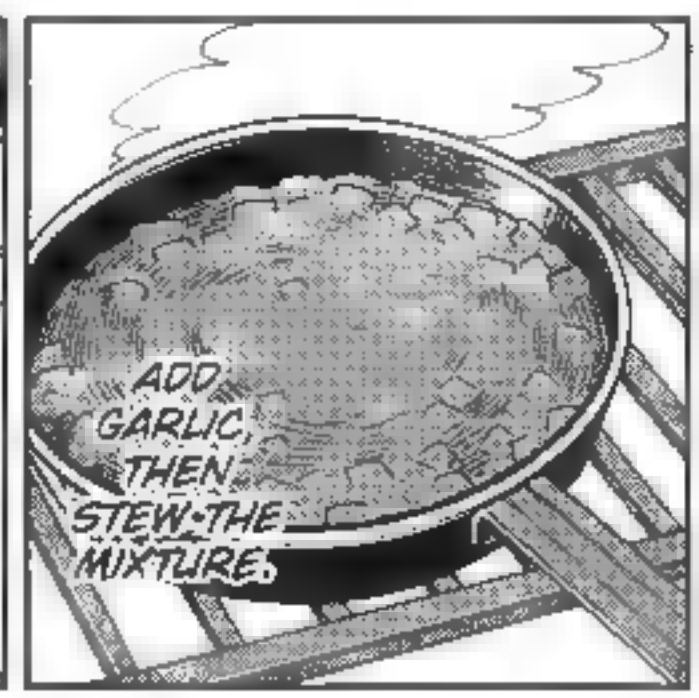
OH! I CAN'T! ETHICALLY, IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM BEFORE, I CAN'T.
THERE'S A SHEEP IN THAT VEGETA-BLE.
BLECH.


DORORI (GLORP)


ONCE BOTH SIDES ACQUIRE A NICE COLOR...
...ADD WINE, COVER, AND BAKE THEM.


CUT BAROMETZ RIBS INTO CHOPS...
...THEN SEASON AND PARTIALLY COOK THEM.

POUR THE FINISHED SAUCE OVER THE MEAT, AND...
DOROORI

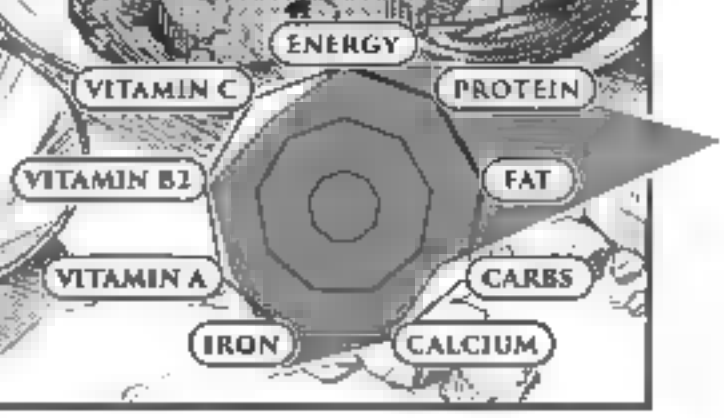

ADD GARLIC, THEN STEW THE MIXTURE.

RUN THE RIND OF THE FRUIT THROUGH HOT WATER, THEN REMOVE THE SKIN AND CHOP ROUGHLY INTO CHUNKS.

Barometz Balut (or Barometz Chops)

Ingredients

Barometz fruit (unripe)	1
Young barometz shoot	500 g
Salt and pepper	To taste
Garlic	2 cloves
Wine	2 tbsp.



GARI
GARI (GRIND)
YUM...
I DIDN'T KNOW FOOD THIS GOOD EVEN EXISTED.

NGU (GNAW)
NGU

...THEY TASTE LIKE CRAB.
SO WHAT?
GATSU (SNARF)
GATSU

...TO BE USEFUL TO THE REST OF YOU.

YOU REALLY ARE DUMB.
TADE JUST WANTS...

COME TO THINK OF IT...
TADE, WHY'D YOU DO THAT WHEN NOBODY ASKED YOU TO?

IF IT SHOWS HOW USEFUL I CAN BE, SURE, I'LL DO CHORES!
HUHN...

I JUST CAN'T LET THEM TURN ME OUT.
I MEAN, THIS IS A GOOD PLACE, YOU KNOW?
WE GET THREE MEALS, WE CAN BATHE, AND THE FUTONS ARE WARM.

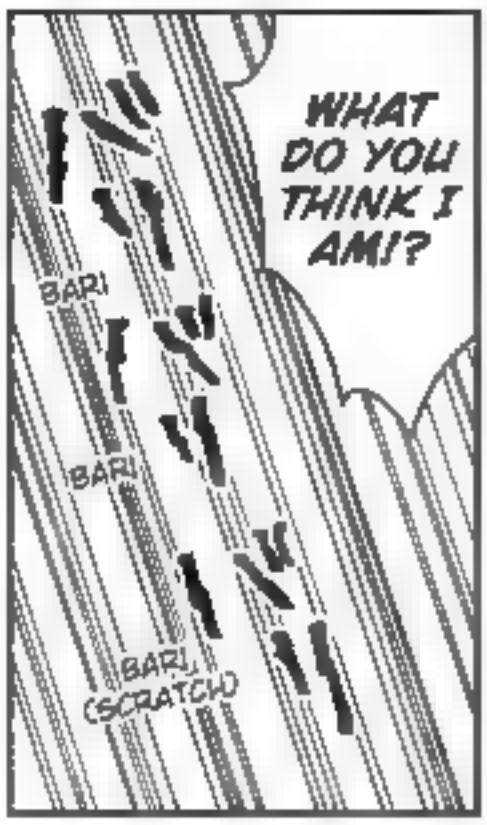
BISH! (WHAP)
OUCH!

SO THAT'S REALLY WHY YOU DO IT, HUH?
...AND ALSO, SOMETIMES LADY MAIZURU REWARDS ME WITH TREATS.

ASEBI.
DON'T GET LOST BECAUSE A LITTLE TROUBLE GOT THE BETTER OF YOU.

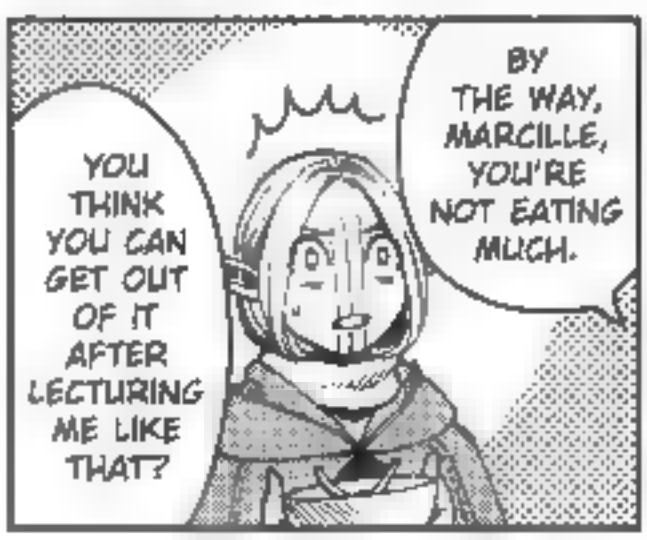
MAYBE IT'S LIKE SHE SAID.

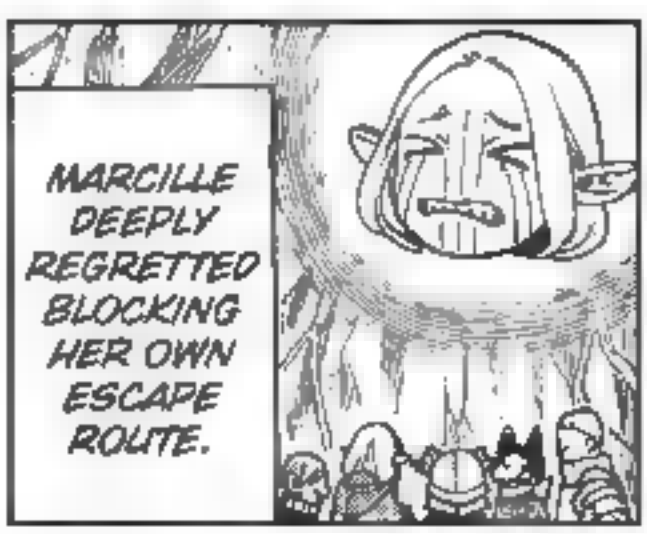
SOME-TIMES YOU GET TASTY STUFF OUT OF THE DEAL.


WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM!?
BARI
BARI
BARI (SCRATCH)

GOOOOD, GOOD, GOOD!
QUIT ...!
WHY, YOU...

YOU WORKED REALLY HARD! WHAT A GOOD GIRL!!
GOOD! VERY GOOD, IZU-TSUMI!
WHA ...!?


YOU THINK YOU CAN GET OUT OF IT AFTER LECTURING ME LIKE THAT?
BY THE WAY, MARCILLE, YOU'RE NOT EATING MUCH.


MARCILLE DEEPLY REGRETTED BLOCKING HER OWN ESCAPE ROUTE.

YOU CAN'T TELL IF THEY'RE NASTY OR NOT UNTIL YOU TRY THEM.
I HAD NO CHOICE THIS TIME, THAT'S ALL.
I WON'T EAT NASTY VEGETABLES OR MONSTERS FROM NOW ON EITHER.

45. Egg

NUN (CLWOOP)
ぬん
シュル SHURU
シュル SHURU
SHURU (SHHK)
シュル…
WE'RE HOOOME!
IS IT DAWN? EVENING?
THE AIR ABOVE-GROUND REALLY IS THE BEST.
HEY, DON'T TOUCH THE WINDOW YET.
YOU'LL SPOIL THE TELEPOR-TATION SPELL.

LET'S GET OUR STORIES STRAIGHT TOMOR-ROW, THEN.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO LET FALIN KILL ANYONE ELSE.
THERE'S... NO NEED TO MENTION LAIOS'S GROUP.

KABRU.

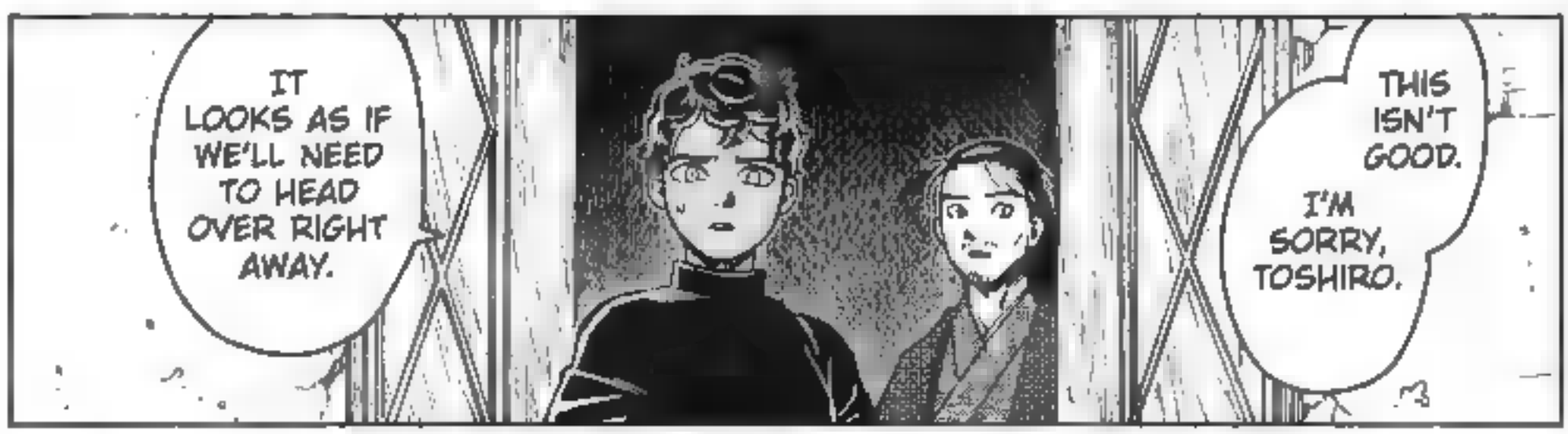
I'LL GO REPORT TO THE LORD TO-MORROW.
I'D LIKE YOU TO CORROB-ORATE MY TESTIMONY.
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM EVERY-THING?

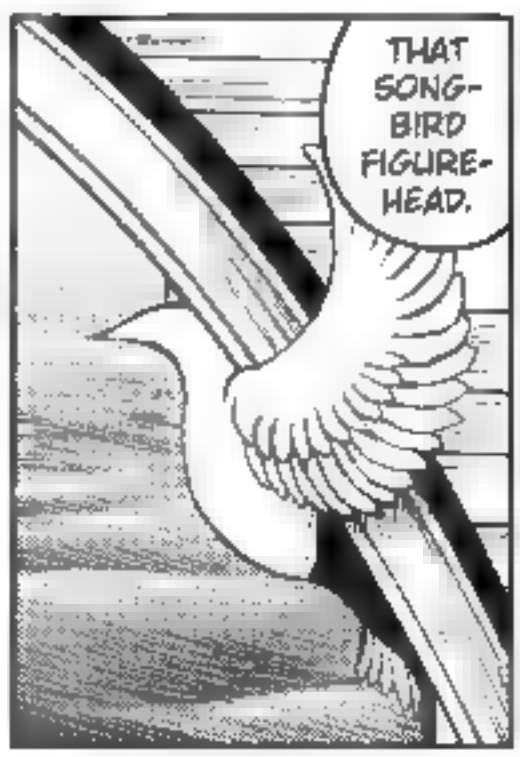
WHOA! KURO, LOOK.

PLEASE RELAX AND REST FOR TODAY.

BA CLUNGE!

THAT SHIP IS HUGE!
THINK THERE ARE TONS OF RICH PEOPLE ON IT?


IT LOOKS AS IF WE'LL NEED TO HEAD OVER RIGHT AWAY.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I'M SORRY, TOSHIRO.


THAT SONG-BIRD FIGURE-HEAD.

THAT WAS TOO FAST, DAMMIT.
IT BELONGS TO THE WESTERN ELVES.
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME...

WHAT IS THAT WHITE SHIP?

THEIR MISSION IS TO INVESTIGATE THE DUNGEON ...

...AND CONQUER IT.

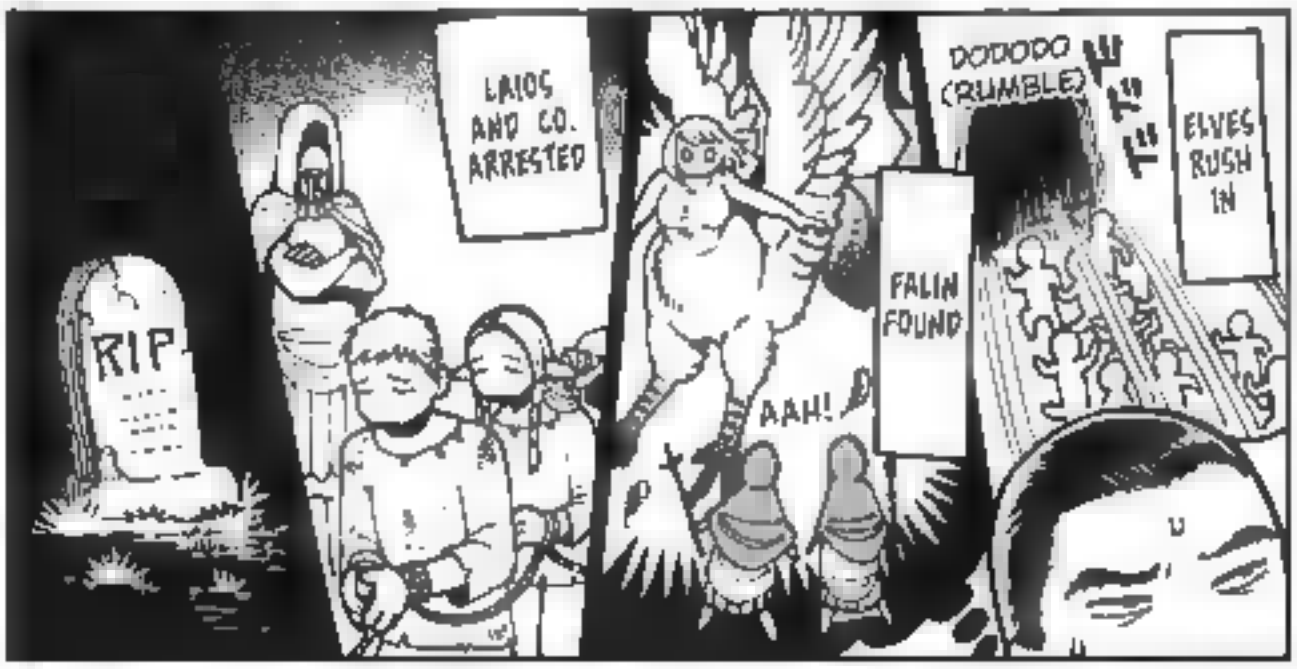
ONCE A DUNGEON'S DANGER RISES ABOVE A CERTAIN POINT, THEY COME.

IT'S CALLED THE CANARY.

POPULARLY ANYWAY.

IF THEY GET THE BETTER OF HIM...

UNFORTUNATELY, THE LORD ISN'T A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR.



I'D HEARD RUMORS THAT THEY'VE BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE LORD FOR A WHILE, BUT...

...IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE SWITCHED TO COERCION.

LET'S HURRY.

TO ELVES AND DWARFS, RACES WITH SHORT LIVES AND HISTORIES ARE LIKE INFANTS.

IT WOULD BE LIKE KEEPING KNIVES AWAY FROM A CHILD TO THEM.

CAN THEY DO THAT?

THIS IS A TALL-MAN REGION, ISN'T IT?

CHIRIN
(JINGLE)
チリン
CHIRIN
チリン

IT DOES MAKE FOR A GOOD THREAT.
CHIRIN
チリン

DO THEY REALLY SKIN YOU IF THEY CATCH YOU?
THEY SAY PEOPLE TRIED TO FLEE THE ISLAND AND GOT CAUGHT.

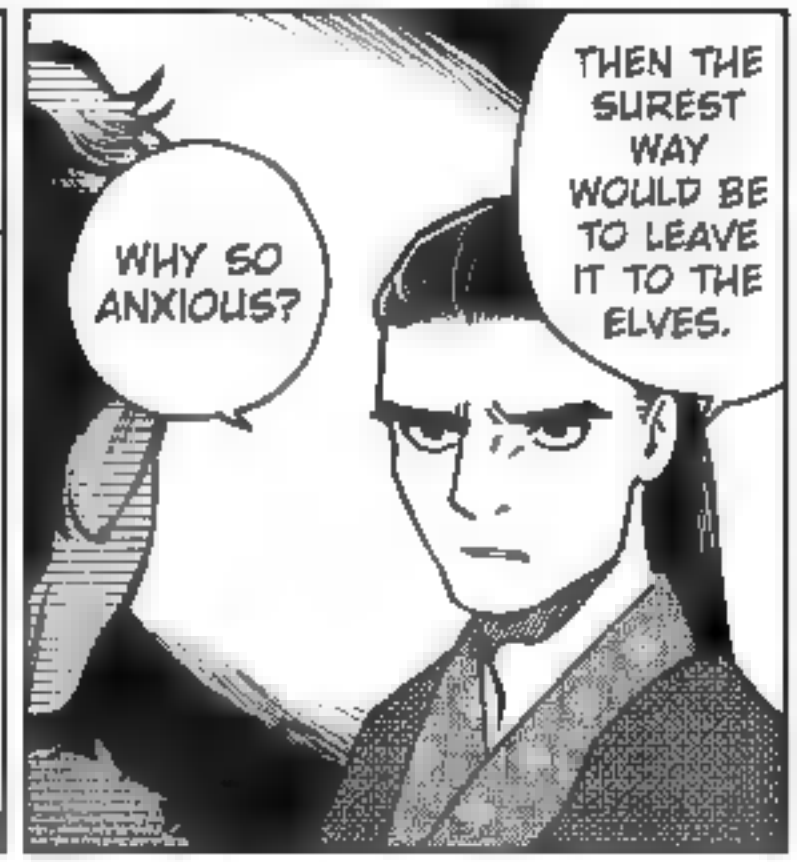
THAT'S CREEPY.
WITH THEM CAMPED THERE, YOU CAN'T EVEN PISS OUTDOORS.

WELL ...
...I DON'T WANT THE DUNGEON TO CREATE ANY MORE VICTIMS...

YOU KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS. WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

IS THAT ALL?
CHIRI

I JUST...
...DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE ELVES GO ABOUT THESE THINGS.


WHY SO ANXIOUS?
THEN THE SUREST WAY WOULD BE TO LEAVE IT TO THE ELVES.

チリ
CHIRI
チリン
CHIRIN
チリ
CHIRI
チリン
CHIRIN

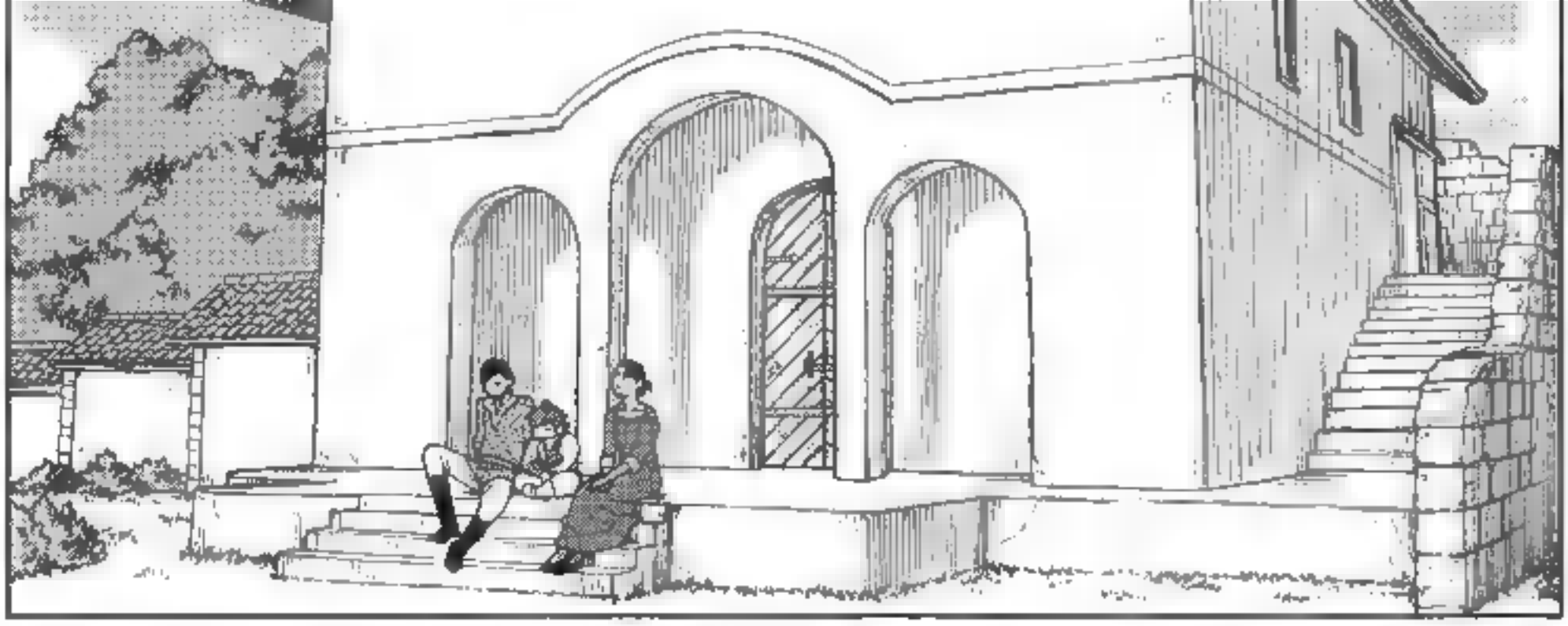
チリン
CHIRIN
チン
CHIN

CHIRIRIRIN
チリリリン

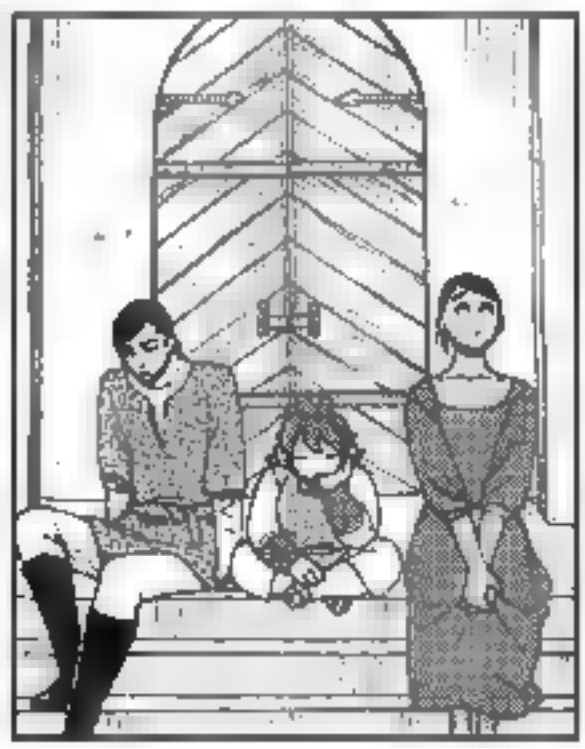
WELL... WE'LL KNOW HOW HE'S DOING. THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
IT PROVES HE'S WELL.
.....
CHIRI
チリ
CHIRI CHIRI
チリ
チリ
CHIRIN
CHIRI
チリ

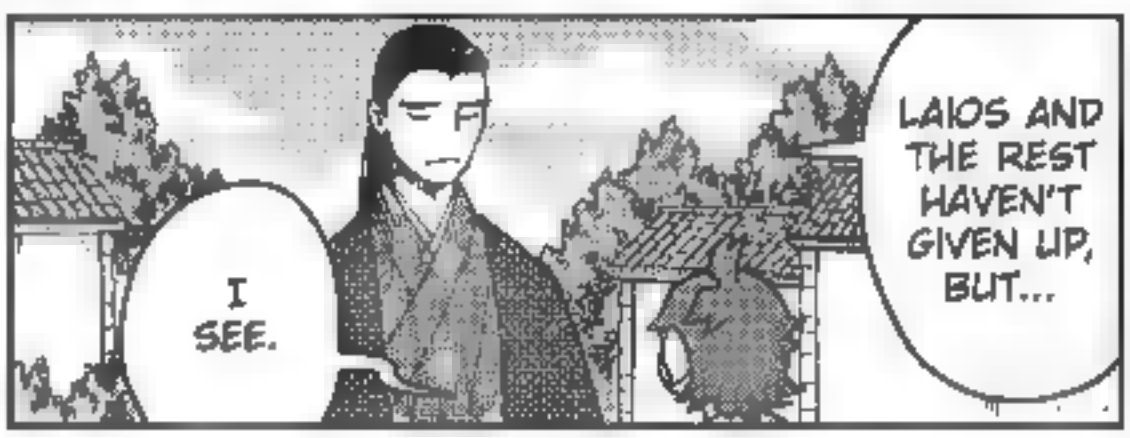
POI (TOSS)
CHIRI
チリ
THAT BELL JUST KEEPS RINGING, DOESN'T IT?
LAIOS MUST HAVE TOSSED IT INTO HIS PACK.
IT'S ROLLING AROUND ON THE BOTTOM WITH EVERY STEP HE TAKES.
CHIRI
チリ
CHIRIN
チリン
CHIRI
チリ
CHIRI
チリ

OH!
DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY.
I MEAN IT— DON'T!



HEY, IF IT AIN'T SHURO!
NAMARI, HM?




LAIOS AND THE REST HAVEN'T GIVEN UP, BUT...
I SEE.

DID YOU EAT THAT STUFF?
YES, I DID.

SO... FALIN?

THEY WENT IN TO TALK, AND THAT'S IT.
THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR HOURS.

AAH...
YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK.
VIPs SHOWED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN.

UM...
WE CAME TO SEE THE LORD OF THE ISLAND.

SO WE'RE TOO LATE...
LET'S GO IN.

JUST HIS ADVISER, THE OLD GNOME.
OTHERS CAME BY, BUT THEY TURNED THEM AWAY.

THE ELVES ARE ALREADY INSIDE?
WHO ELSE?

MY...
MY HOMETOWN GREW PROSPER-OUS FROM A DUNGEON TOO.

WHATEVER HAPPENS FROM THEN ON...
...WE'LL NEVER HEAR OF IT.
IF THE DUNGEON GOES TO THE ELVES, THAT'S IT.

HUH?
THAT WOULDN'T WISE.
TO-SHIRO.

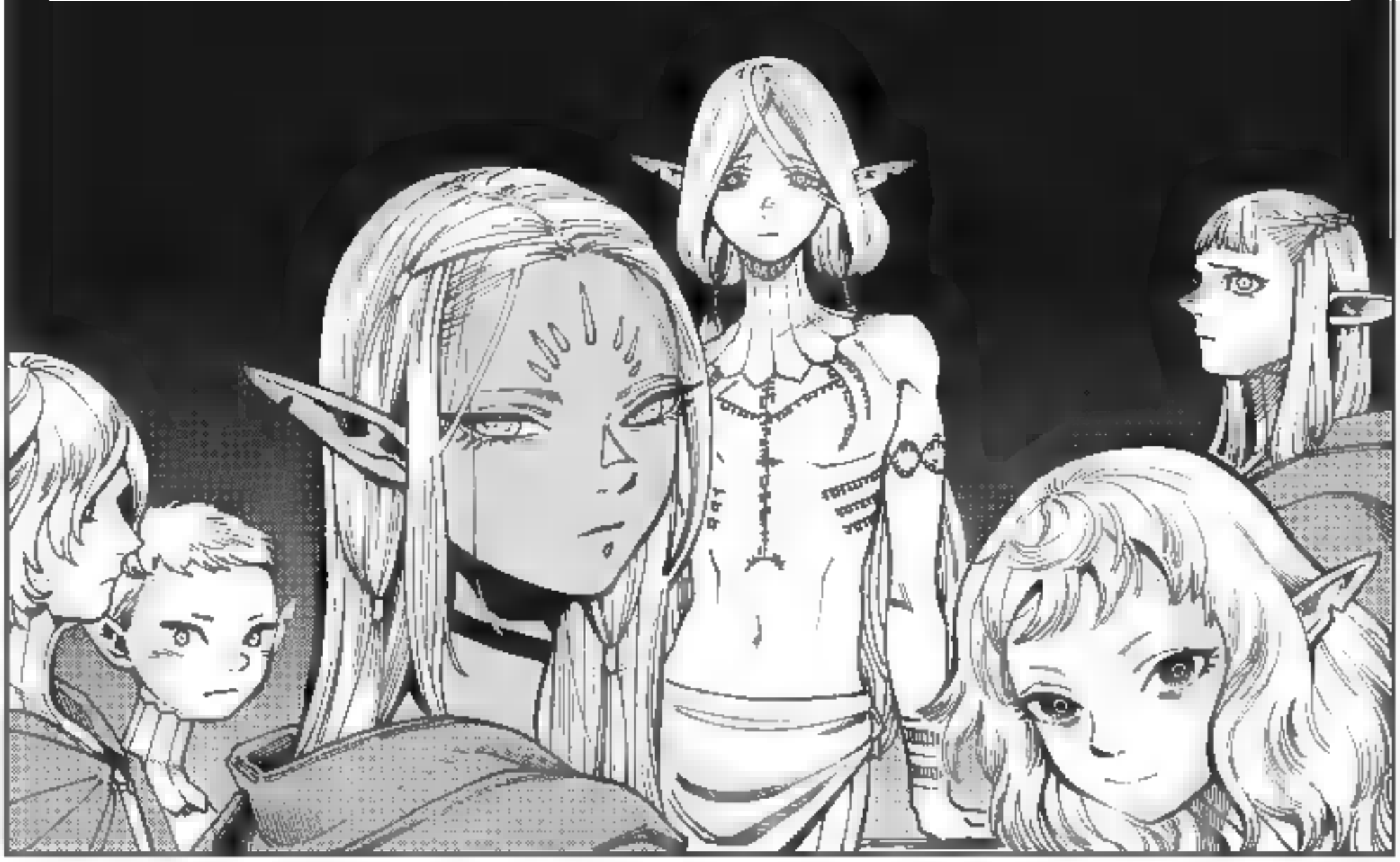
MY MOTHER RAISED ME, DES-PERATELY, ALL ON HER OWN.
SHE DIDN'T DESERVE A DEATH LIKE THAT.

WHY DID THAT HAPPEN?
WHY DID MY FAMILY HAVE TO DIE?
NO ONE TOLD ME A THING.

ONE DAY, MONSTERS SUDDENLY FLOODED OUT.
THE ELVES CAME...
...AND MANY DIED.

THIS SYSTEM, WHERE ONLY A FEW RACES HAVE POWER...
...ISN'T HEALTHY FOR ANY SIDE.
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

BAN—
CWHAMO



WHAT?
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S BUSY. LEAVE US.

EXCUSE ME.
I BRING A REPORT FOR THE LORD OF THE ISLAND.

BOSO
BOSO (MUTTER)

BE BRIEF.

DON'T LET THEM SCARE YOU.

IT'S A REPORT REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE DUNGEON.
PLEASE HEAR IT.

ざわ
ZAWA (MUTTER)
...WE EN-COUNTERED A HUMAN WHO'S TURNED INTO A MONSTER.
JUST MOMENTS AGO, DURING A DUNGEON EXPEDI-TION...

IT'S PROGRESSING FASTER THAN WE THOUGHT.
BLAST. A CHIMERA, HM?

CALM DOWN, ELDER.
NATIONAL BORDERS ARE TRIVIAL WHEN LIVES ARE IN THE BALANCE.
LET'S HAVE THEM COME ASHORE RIGHT AWAY!
OF ALL THE ARBI-TRARY...!
THERE, SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?
WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO JUST WAIT FOR A REPLY.
PAN (CLAP)

THAT JUST MADE THINGS FAR WORSE.
IF YOU'D AFFIX YOUR SEAL HERE, THEN.
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, MY LORD. ADAPTABLE AND WISE.
DON'T DO IT! DON'T YOU DO IT!!
TANSU... ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TREAT ME LIKE I'M OLD!

BUT I DIDN'T.
FRANKLY, I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH MONSTERS. I DON'T WANT TO EVEN SEE THEM.

SERIOUSLY, I'M TELLING YOU, NOT A ONE.
...IF I'D HAD THE POWER TO CONQUER THE DUNGEON, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM.

THE TRUTH IS...

WELL, THEY'RE HERE TO HUNT FOR TREASURE. NO ONE'S THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE RACES.
FINALLY, JUST AS I'D STEELED MYSELF TO CAPTURE THE DUNGEON ON MY OWN...
NO, THEY AREN'T.

GIVE BACK THAT MONEY!!
YOU TWO-TIMER!!
HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY WERE SELF-SERVING...
...AND MOST WERE NEARLY WORTHLESS.

SO I STARTED CHECKING AROUND TO SEE IF I COULD ASSIST OTHER SKILLED ADVENTURERS.

HM...
SO I INTRODUCED A FRIEND TO THEM...

ANYWAY, THEY'RE ODD.
THEY'VE GOT GOOD INSTINCTS, BUT NO AMBITION...
HUH.

...I HEARD A RUMOR ABOUT THE TOUDEN SIBLINGS.
THEY MUST'VE BEEN BROUGHT UP REALLY WELL.

THEY KEPT ODD COMPANY.

I HEARD THEY WERE DESCENDENTS OF THE GOLDEN CASTLE.

THEY SAY HE'S A PRINCE FROM SOMEWHERE.

THEY SENT MONEY TO TERRIBLY DISREPUTABLE PEOPLE.

THEIR ORIGINS WERE A MYSTERY.

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON...

NO, WRONG PERSON...!

THE MORE I FOUND OUT, THE STRANGER THEY SEEMED.

THEY WEREN'T ALL THAT STRONG, BUT THEY REACHED THE DEPTHS.

SISTER WENT TO MAGIC SCHOOL

EASTERNER WITH A SHADY SIDE BUSINESS

DAUGHTER OF CORRUPT WEAPONS DEALER WHO FLED

INFLUENTIAL HALF-FOOT

MYSTERY WOMAN

HEY, THANKS, PAL.

I FINALLY GOT TO MEET HIM, AND NOW I'M SURE.

THANKS FOR THE FOOD.

MAY I SIT NEXT TO...

I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM SO I COULD MAKE UP MY MIND, BUT...

THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THAT ROLE WOULD PROVE TO BE GOOD OR BAD.

YOU DROPPED THIS!

UM...

I'M IN A HURRY.

EVEN SO, VAGUELY...

...I THOUGHT THE BROTHER MIGHT PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE ISLAND'S FATE.

WEALTH

GOV'T

SUCCESSION

RIGHTS

MESSAGES

P.R.

RACE

RACE

VICE

DISCORD

AGENDAS

ENVY

STRIFE

THAT GUY CAN'T CONSIDER THE ISLAND'S FUTURE.

IT SHOULDN'T BE LEFT TO HIM...

...BUT I CAN SAY ONE THING FOR SURE.

HE'S ONLY THINKING ABOUT MONSTERS.

RIGHT NOW, HE'S THE TALL-MAN WHO'S CLOSEST TO THE DUNGEON'S HEART.

YAY!

DO AS YOU WISH.

ENOUGH.

LORD OF THE ISLAND!

TELL THEM TO COME ASHORE...

...I CAN'T LET THESE ELVES GET IN HIS WAY.

I'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT HIM LATER.

SINCE THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST AND LAST CHANCE...

PLEASE WAIT!!

WE HAVE TO STOP IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE WE KNOW THAT.
IT'S CHARAC-TERISTIC OF [redacted] WHEN THEY'RE GROWING.

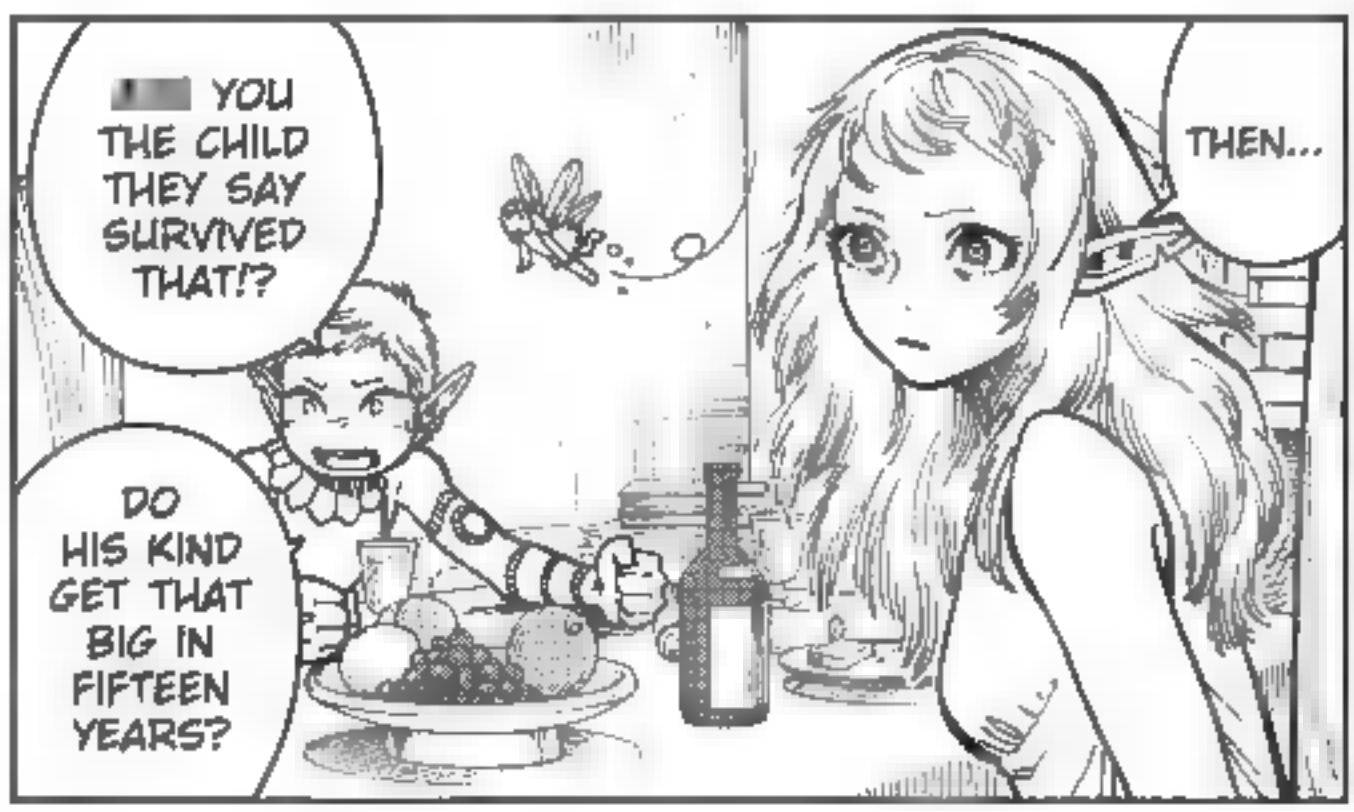
THE DUNGEON'S STRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND MON-STERS ARE CHANGING DRASTI-CALLY.
IT'S EX-TREMELY UNSTA-BLE.

A TIME WHEN IT MOST NEEDS NOURISH-MENT.
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

IN HUMAN TERMS, IT'S A GROWTH SPURT.

PIKU (TWITCH)
FIFTEEN YEARS...?

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, A DUNGEON DESTROYED MY HOME-TOWN.
IT WAS THE TOWN OF UTAYA.


[redacted] YOU THE CHILD THEY SAY SURVIVED THAT!?
DO HIS KIND GET THAT BIG IN FIFTEEN YEARS?
THEN...

I WANTED TO PREVENT THE TRAGEDY OF MY HOMETOWN FROM REPEATING.
NH...
HOW LAUD-ABLE.

WELL, WELL.
I'M SURE YOU WERE DOTED ON, [redacted] YET YOU BECAME AN ADVENTURER?
I'D DREAMED OF JOINING YOU, BUT RACE WAS AN OBSTACLE...

I DID HEAR THAT THE VICE-CAPTAIN OR SOMEONE HAD BROUGHT YOU BACK...
YES.
I WAS IN THEIR CARE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

SO...
PITA (FREEZE)

WHAT ABOUT IT?
"NOUR-ISHMENT," YOU SAID.
GO ON.

ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?
GO VISIT AND LET 'EM SEE YOU ONCE IN A WHILE.
WANT SOME CAKE?

IT WAS BECAUSE THE DEAD BECAME MONSTERS THAT DEVOURED THE OTHERS ALIVE.

I HEAR MANY SOLDIERS WERE ATTACKED FROM BEHIND AS WELL.

THANKS IN PART TO YOUR EFFORTS, THE UTAYA DUNGEON COLLAPSED PROMPTLY...
SO THAT'S THE BOSS, HM?
...BUT THERE WERE MANY CASUALTIES AMONG SOLDIERS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE.

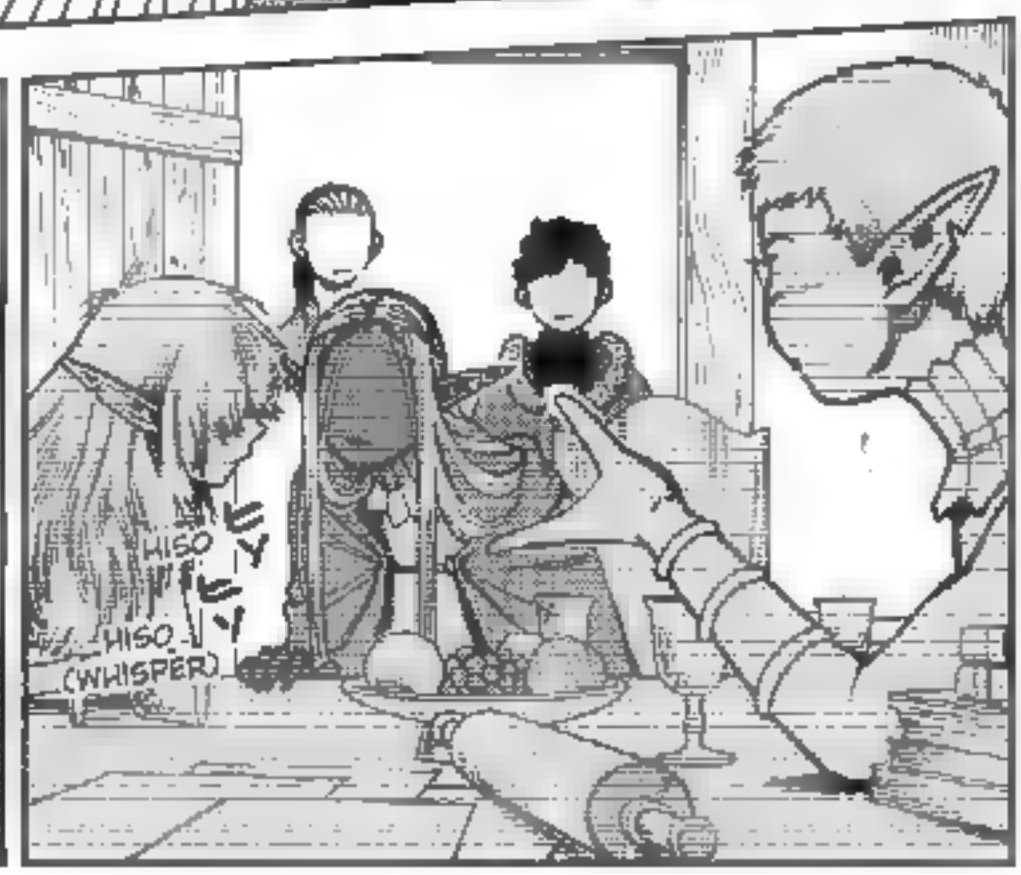
YOU CAN'T WANT TO DAMAGE THE DUNGEON WITH COMBAT EITHER.

IF YOU RELY ON NUMBERS, YOU'LL ONLY CREATE ANOTHER UTAYA.
I PROPOSE SEALING THE DUNGEON.
WE MUST NOT FEED IT.

ALL HUMANS HAVE CON-NECTIONS OF SOME SORT.
I KNOW OF SEVERAL GO-BETWEENS I CAN ASK FOR HELP.
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME!

WHAT OF THE HUMANS LEFT INSIDE?
MOST ARE CONCEN-TRATED ON THE FIRST FLOOR.
LET'S EVACUATE THEM LITTLE BY LITTLE.

THIS GUY...


HISO
HISO
(WHISPER)

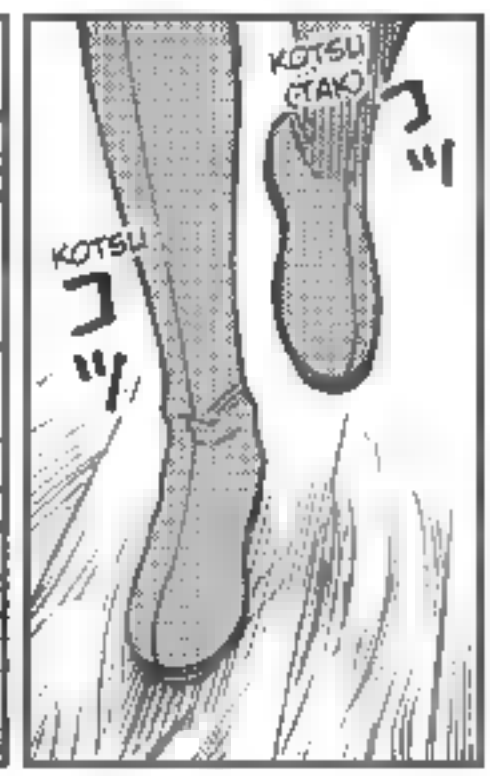
PASHI (SNATCH)
GWEH!

BATAN (SLAM)
GACHA (CLANK)

SUU (DRIFT)
A BACKGROUND LIKE THAT, AND HE ATE MONSTERS?
MENTAL IMAGE

I ASSUME YOU'LL HELP ME TOO.
EEP!

I EXPECT YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING.


KOTSU (TAK)
KOTSU

HUH?
...HEY. GET READY.
GATA (CLATTER)
FOR AN EXPEDI-TION.

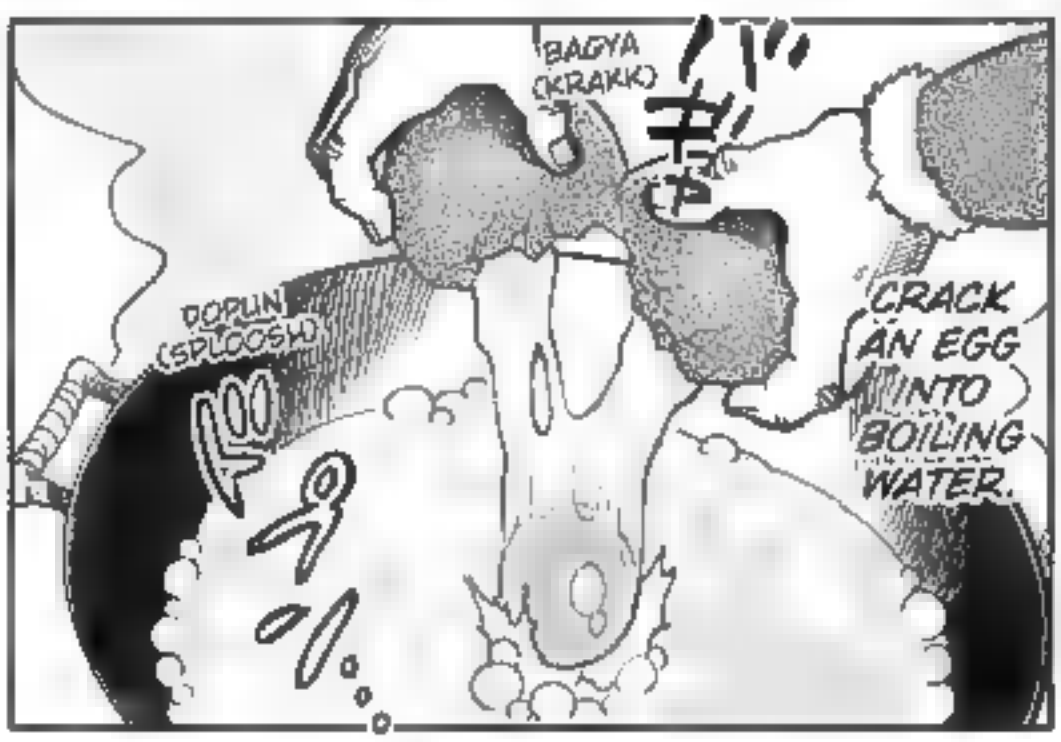
...SEND THE UNIT IN AT ONCE.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS ...

GOT IT?
YES!

IF YOU INSIST, THEN LET'S SEE YOU DO IT.
I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.

FUTSU (BURBLE)
FUTSU
MISHI
MISHI (KRIKK)

GON (WHUNK)
GAN (CLONK)


BAGYA (KRAKK)
DOPLIN (SPLOOSH)
CRACK AN EGG INTO BOILING WATER.

YAWN!

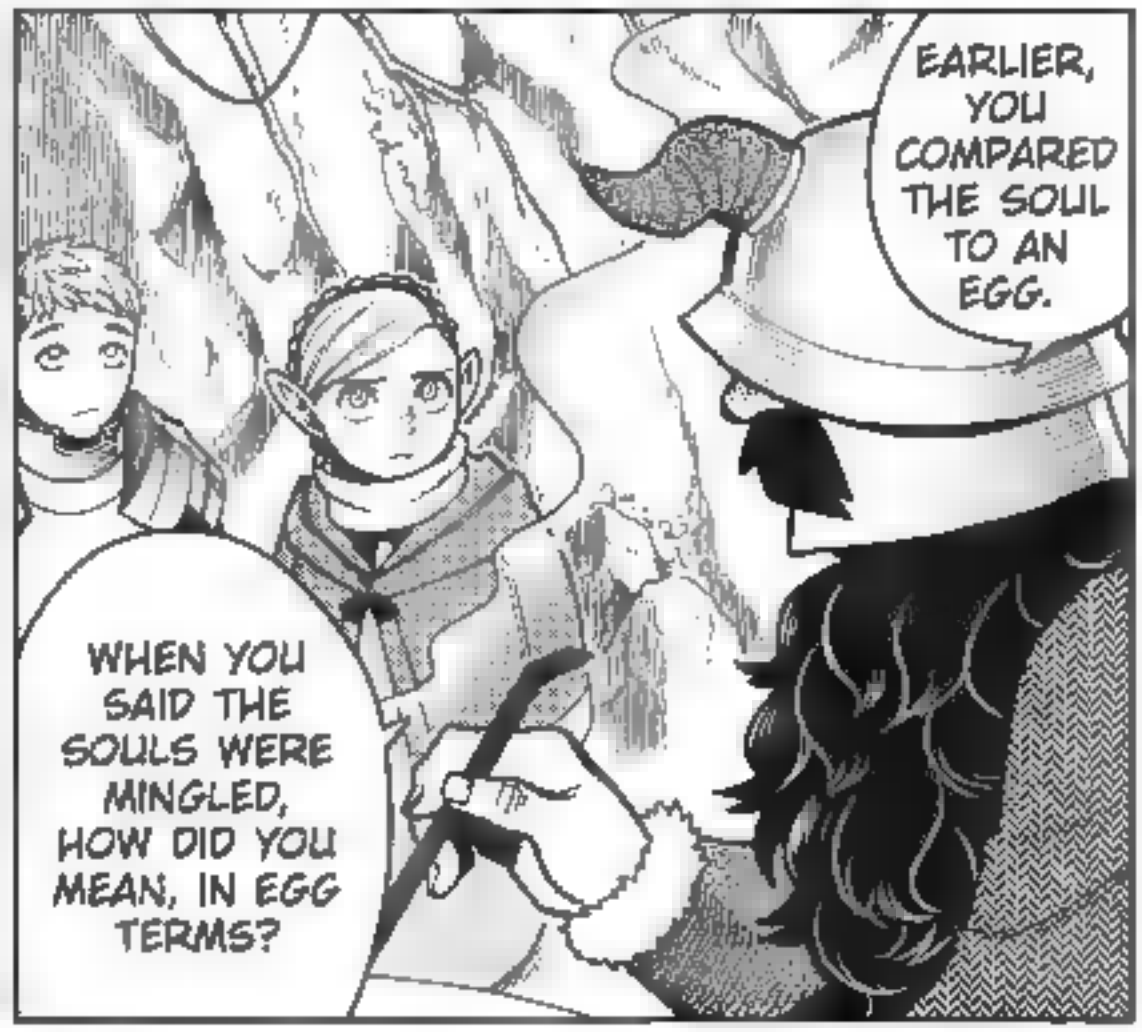
HUH?

...WAS IT A SCRAMBLED EGG?

GURU
GURU (SWIRL)
BOKO (BLUP)
BOKO

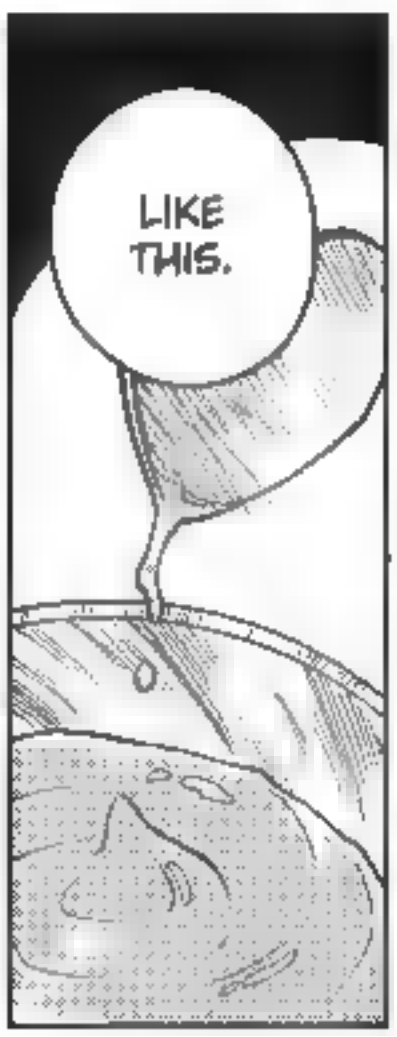
GURUN (TWIRL)

BURUN (JIGGLE)
ONCE THE WHITE SOLIDIFIES, TAKE IT OUT.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE SITUATION WOULD CHANGE COMPLETELY DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU MEANT "SCRAMBLED" OR "FRIED."
ZABAA (SPLASH)


EARLIER, YOU COMPARED THE SOUL TO AN EGG.
WHEN YOU SAID THE SOULS WERE MINGLED, HOW DID YOU MEAN, IN EGG TERMS?

NOTHING BEHAVES AS MANY DIFFERENT WAYS AS EGGS!
FOR EXAMPLE, THE WHITE AND THE YOLK SOLIDIFY AT DIFFERENT TEMPERA-TURES.
NO?
I WAS IMPRESSED. I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD COMPARISON.

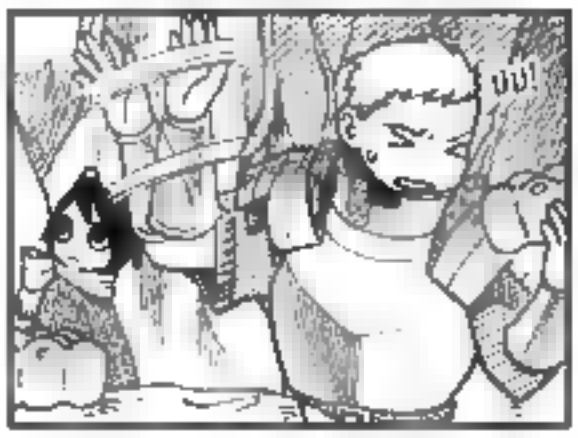
...LISTEN.
I DIDN'T COMPARE SOULS TO EGGS...
...SO YOU COULD JUMP ON WHAT I SAID AND PLAY AROUND WITH IT.


LIKE THIS.

...IT WILL MIX WELL EVEN WITH THINGS THAT WOULDN'T NORMALLY MIX WITH IT, LIKE OIL AND WATER.
IF CON-DITIONS ARE RIGHT...

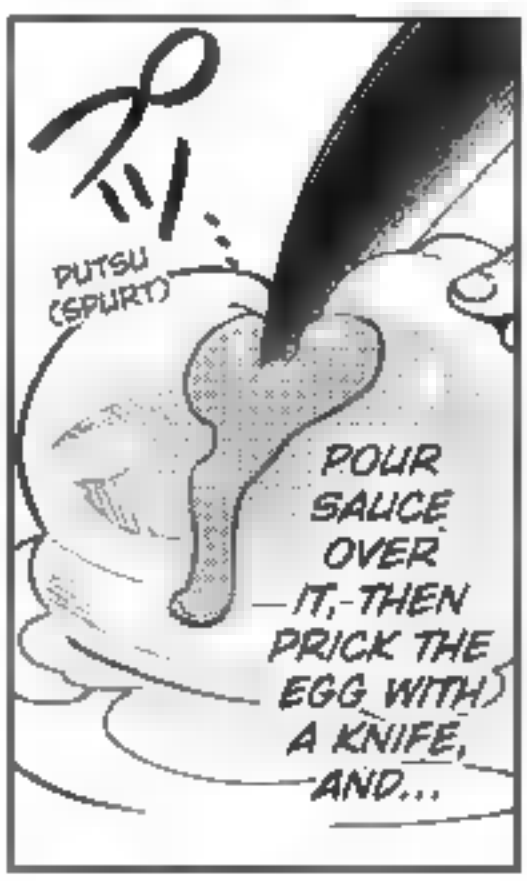
BEAT THE YOLK IN A WATER BATH, THEN SLOWLY ADD BUTTER.
KA (CLAK)
KA
KA
KA

FROTH-INESS, MOISTURE RETENTION, STICKI-NESS...
THE INTEREST-ING ONE IS EMULSIFI-CATION.


UU!

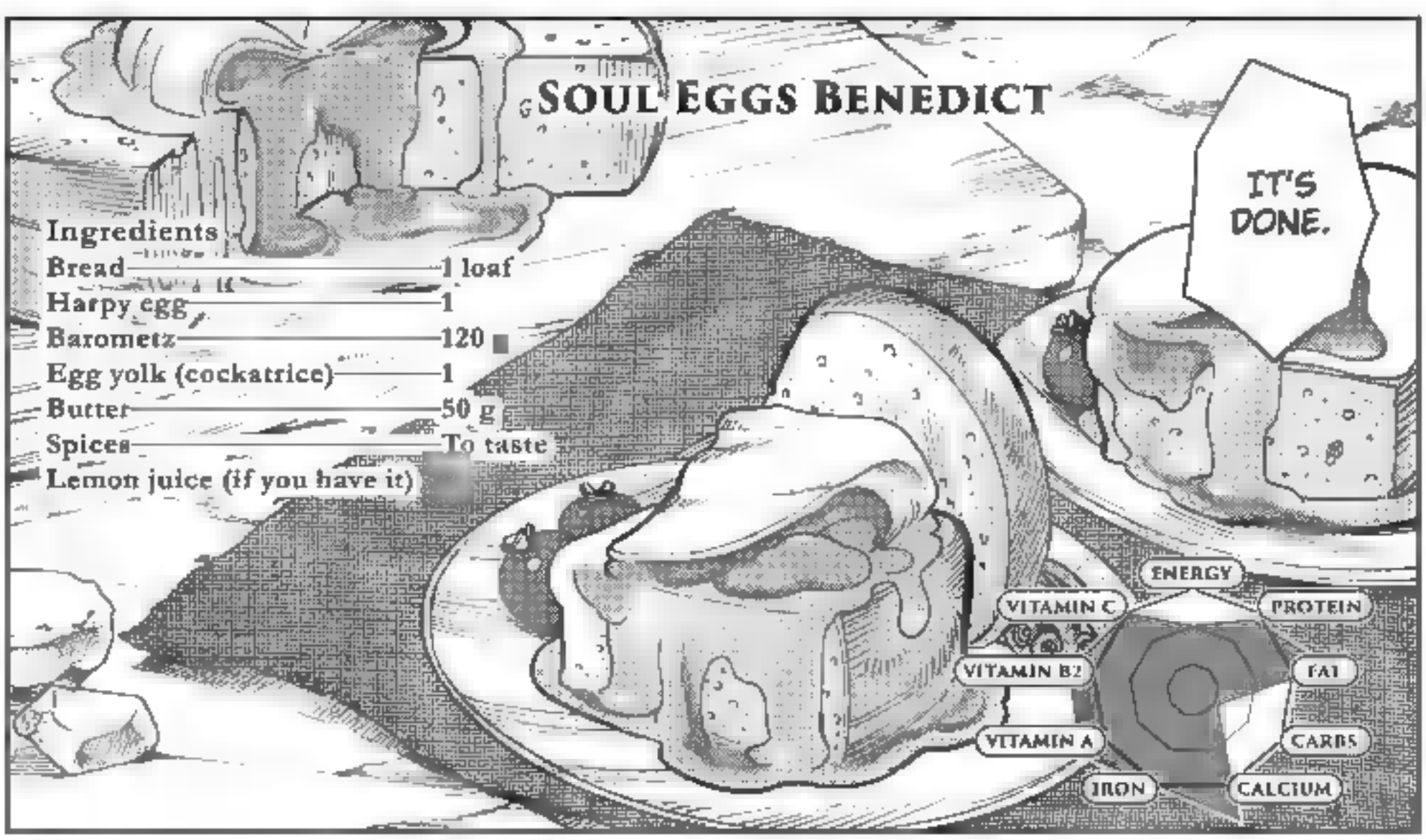
LAIOS, GRAB ME THAT BREAD.
WHY NOT A LIQUID?
YOU'RE RIGHT. WHY EGGS?
EMULSIFY? YOLK? WHITE??

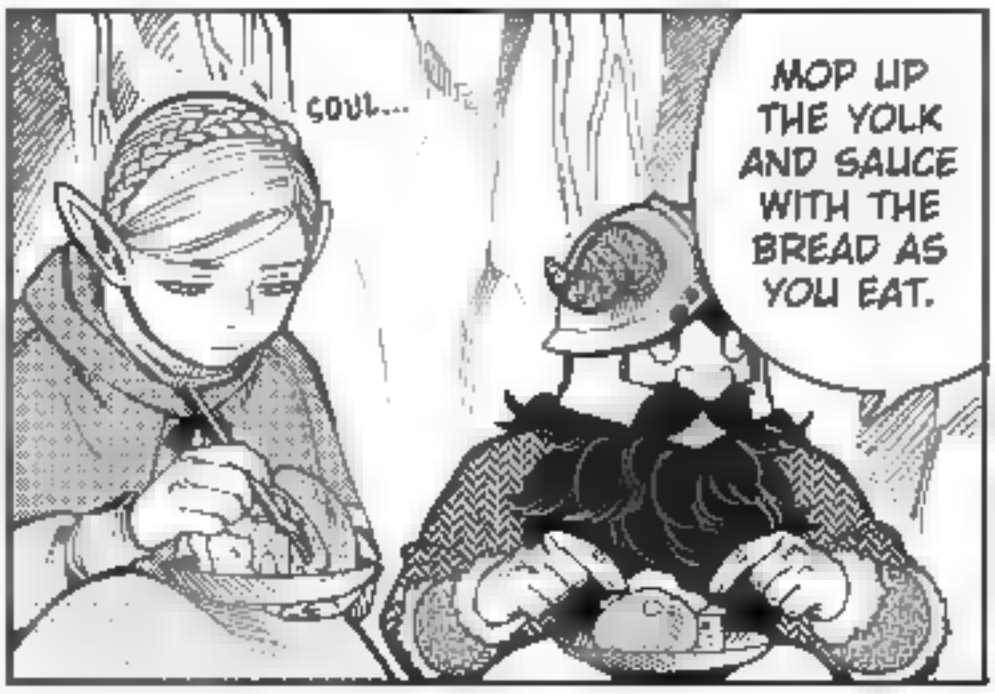
WELL, I MEAN...


PUTSU (SPURT)
POUR SAUCE OVER IT, THEN PRICK THE EGG WITH A KNIFE, AND...

PURUN (JIGGLE)
PUT A POACHED EGG AND OTHER INGREDIENTS ON TOP.

SLICE THE BREAD.


SOUL EGGS BENEDICT
Ingredients
Bread 1 loaf
Harpy egg 1
Barometz 120 g
Egg yolk (cockatrice) 1
Butter 50 g
Spices To taste
Lemon juice (if you have it)
IT'S DONE.
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C


SOUL...
MOP UP THE YOLK AND SAUCE WITH THE BREAD AS YOU EAT.

USE YOUR KNIFE AND FORK.
HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO EAT THIS?

DELICIOUS, AS ALWAYS.
MAYBE THE "SOUL" COMPARISON WAS BASED ON FLAVOR.

PAKU CRUNCH

GUI
GUI CRUSH

PIN CRAWIKO

THAT'S EVEN SCARIER.

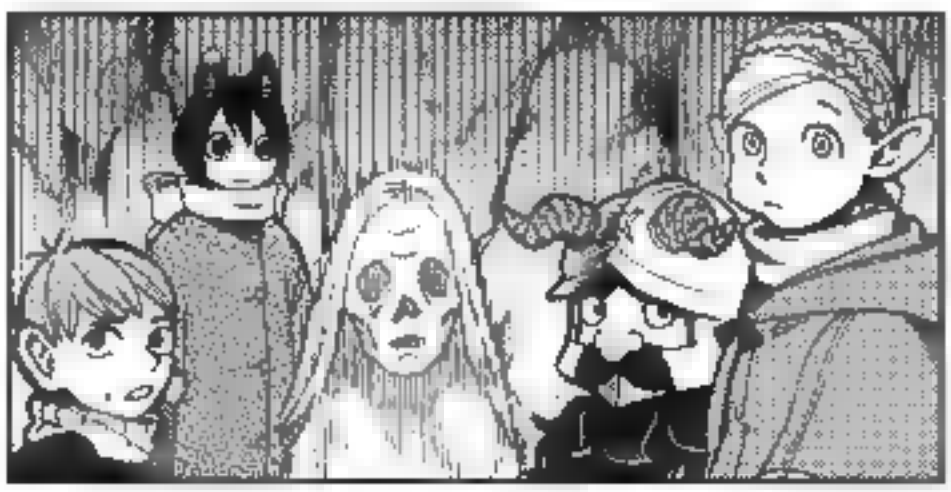
HUH!?
WAIT...

NOT REALLY.
I JUST THOUGHT I FELT A PRESENCE.

...IZUTSUMI.

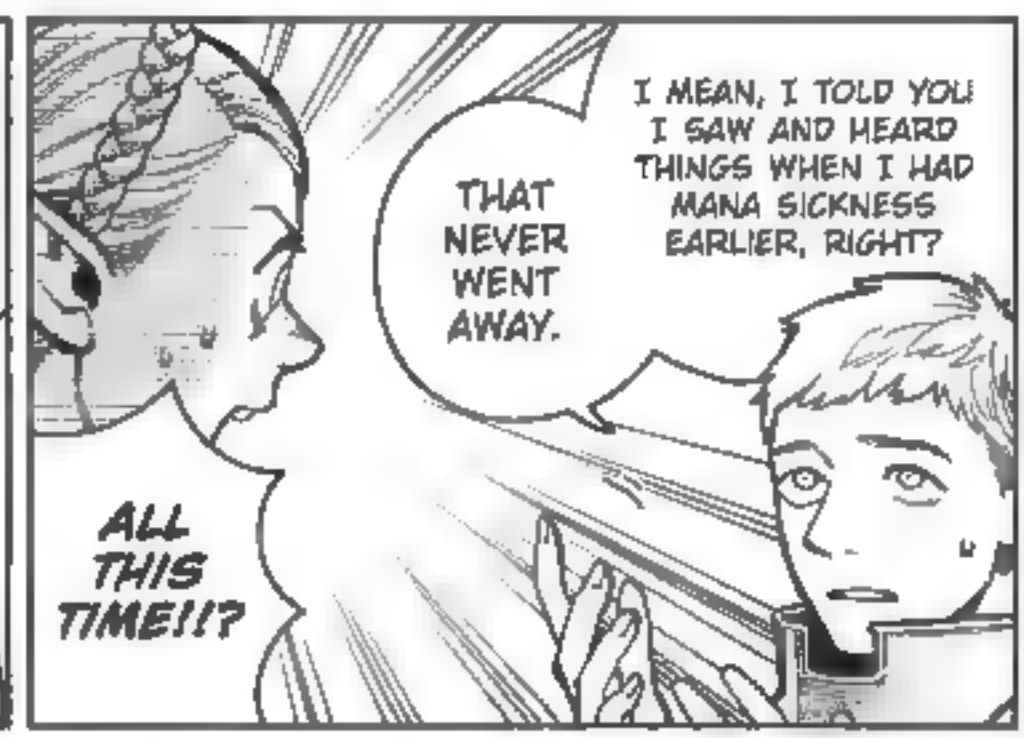
ARE YOU LOOKING AT SOME-THING?
WOULD YOU QUIT STARING AROUND AT STUFF THAT'S NOT THERE?
IT'S SCARY.

HUH?



AM I...
...NOT ACTUALLY HALLUCI-NATING?

BECAUSE CHILCHUCK ALWAYS SAYS I'M SICK IN THE HEAD AND THREATENS ME.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
WELL, YOU ARE SICK.
HUH? IT'S MY FAULT?


I MEAN, I TOLD YOU I SAW AND HEARD THINGS WHEN I HAD MANA SICKNESS EARLIER, RIGHT?
THAT NEVER WENT AWAY.
ALL THIS TIME!!?

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE SAYING.

I ENVY IT.
THAT SIDE OF YOU IS JUST...
BUT THEIR VOICE AND SHAPE GRADUALLY GOT CLEARER...

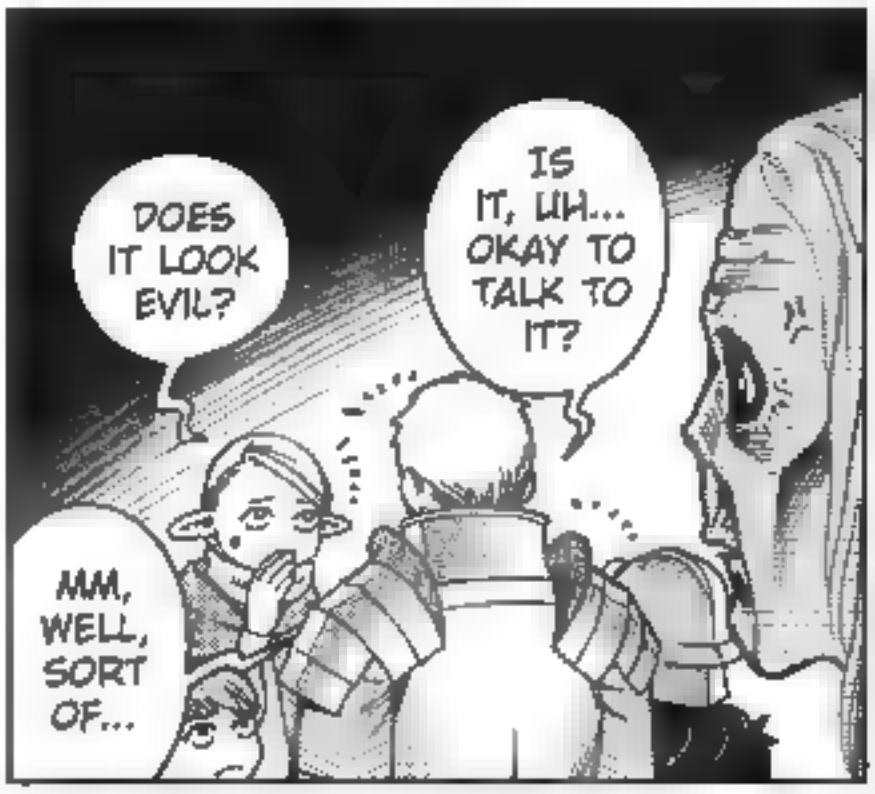
IT WAS SCARY, SO I'VE BEEN PRETENDING NOT TO SEE IT, BUT...
DON'T PUSH. DON'T PUSH!

WHAT SORT OF HALLUCI-NATIONS?
WELL, UH...
SOMEBODY'S CONSTANTLY TALKING TO ME.

WHAT DID IT JUST SAY?

SO YOU ACTUALLY COULD HEAR ME. I KNEW IT.

IT'S MAD THAT I WAS IGNORING IT...?



CHAPTER 45: THE END

WHAT SORT OF PERSON WOULD GHOSTS WANT TO INTRODUCE US TO?
PROBABLY ANOTHER GHOST.

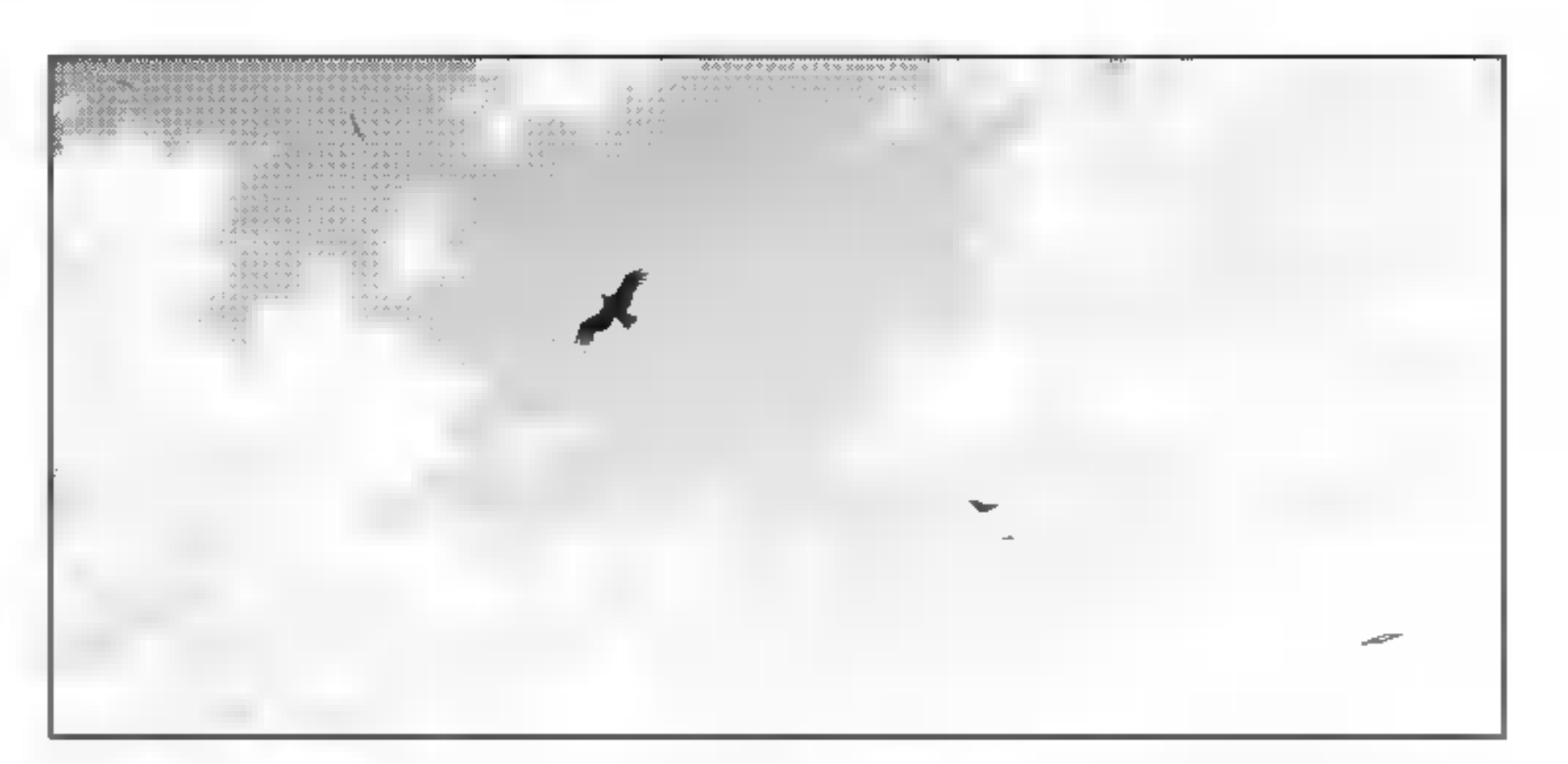
ZUBO (POP)

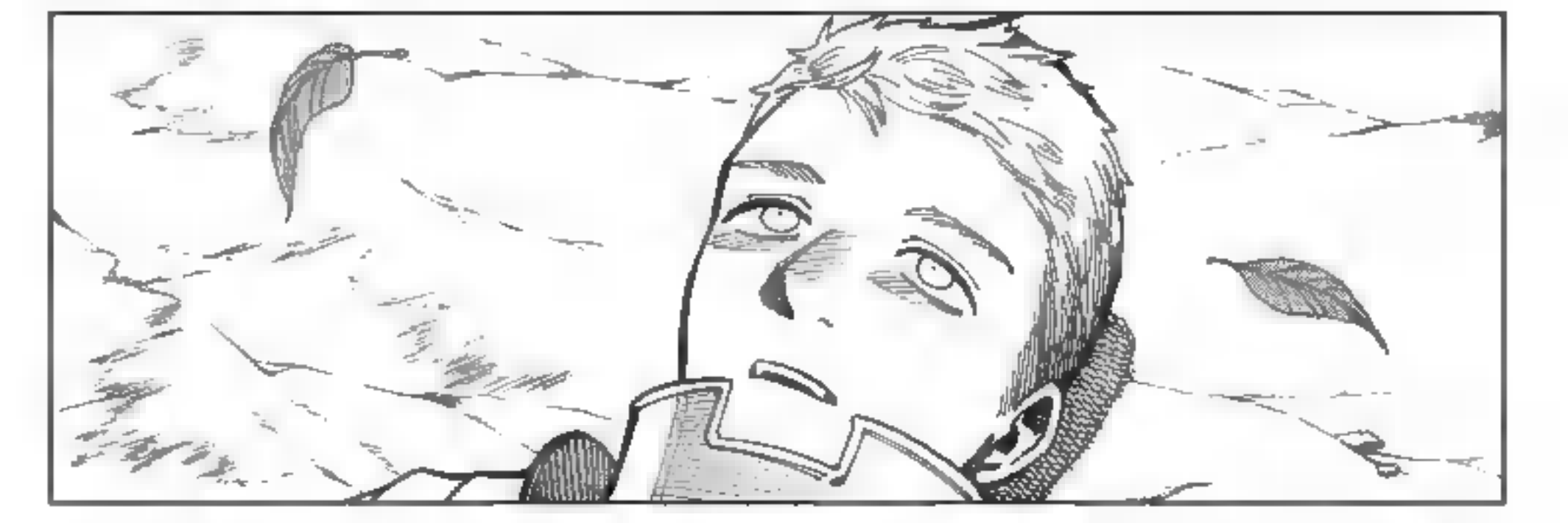
YAH!
ZUBO

OKAY.
IN THAT CASE, TAKE US TO THEM!
CHAPTER 46

GUNYA (WARP)

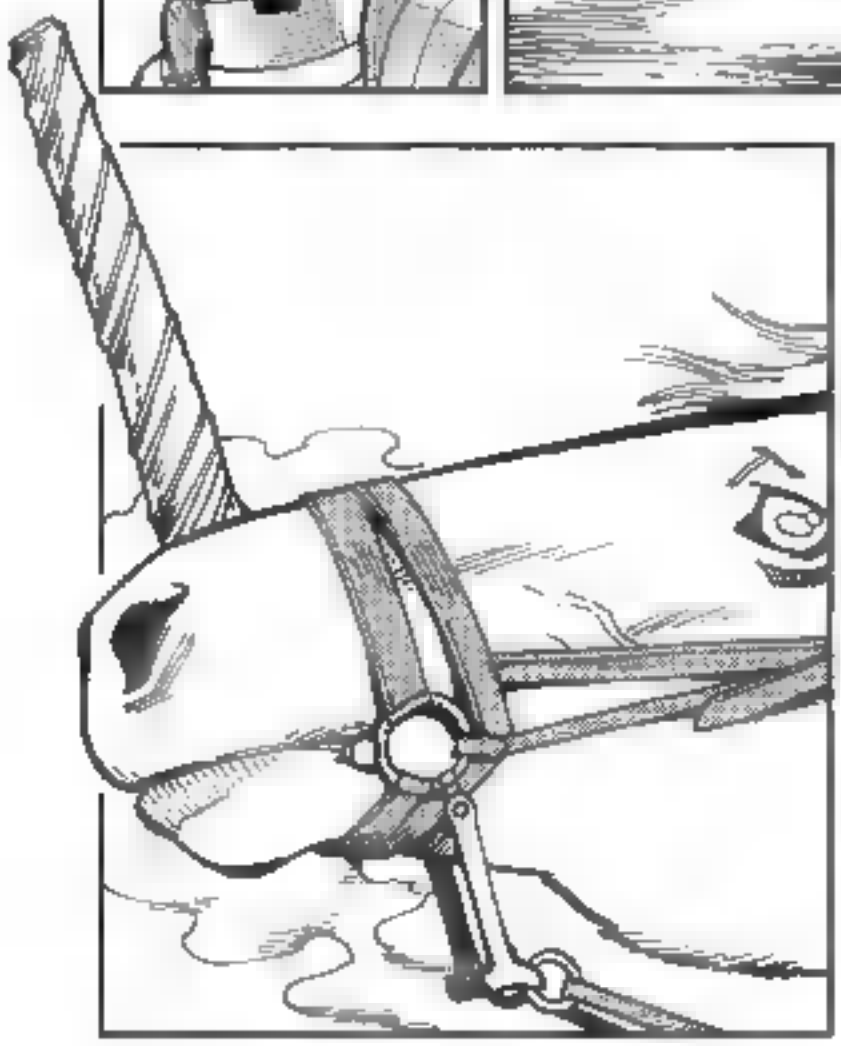
46. The Golden Country





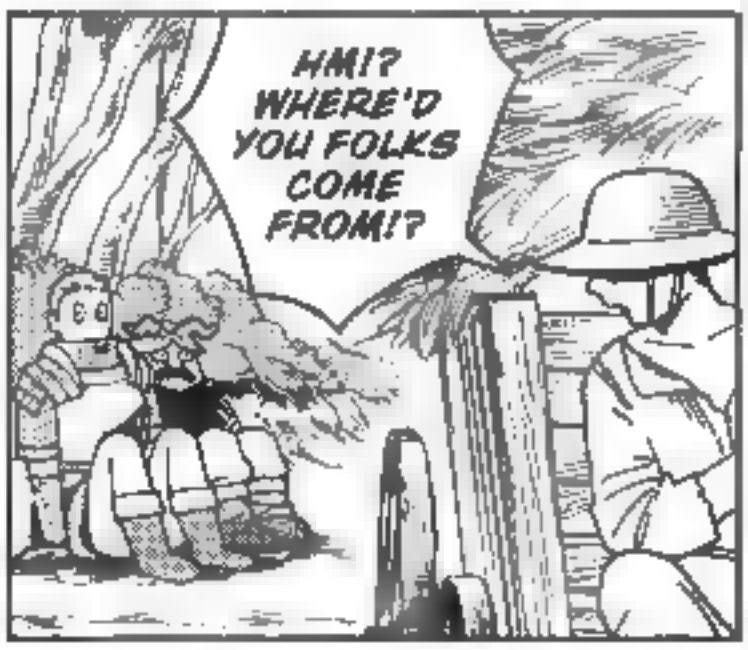
HEY! LOOK OUT!

THIS IS...
BLARGH
WH...
WHAT ...?



DO (THOOM)

A... A UNI-CORN!

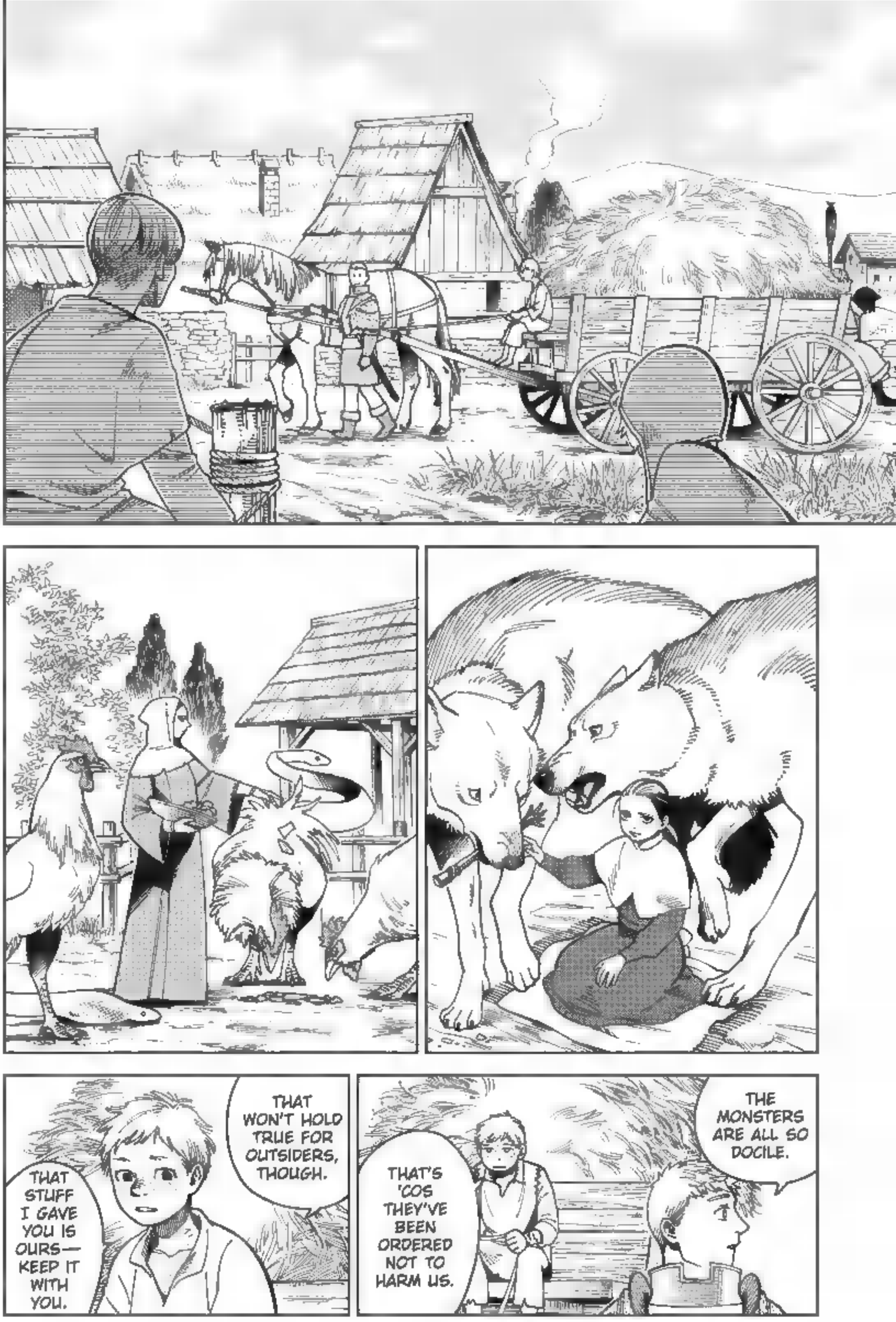

HM!? WHERE'D YOU FOLKS COME FROM!?

UH, WE CAME FROM THE DUNGEON...
HUH? WHERE ARE THE GHOSTS?
THIS IS HUGE!

ARE YOU MAYBE...
...FROM OUTSIDE !?

COME WITH ME!

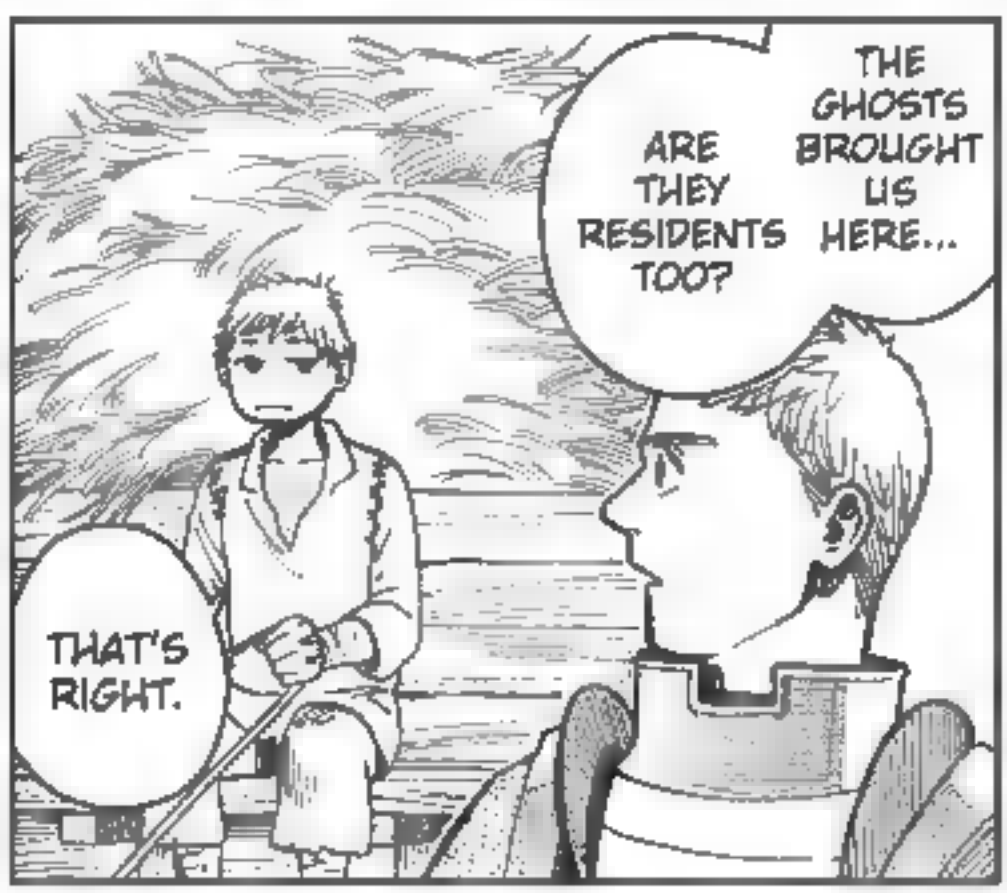
HERE, PUT THESE ON.
BASA (RUSTLE)
BAFU (PLOP)


THAT STUFF I GAVE YOU IS OURS— KEEP IT WITH YOU.
THAT WON'T HOLD TRUE FOR OUTSIDERS, THOUGH.
THAT'S 'COS THEY'VE BEEN ORDERED NOT TO HARM US.
THE MONSTERS ARE ALL SO DOCILE.

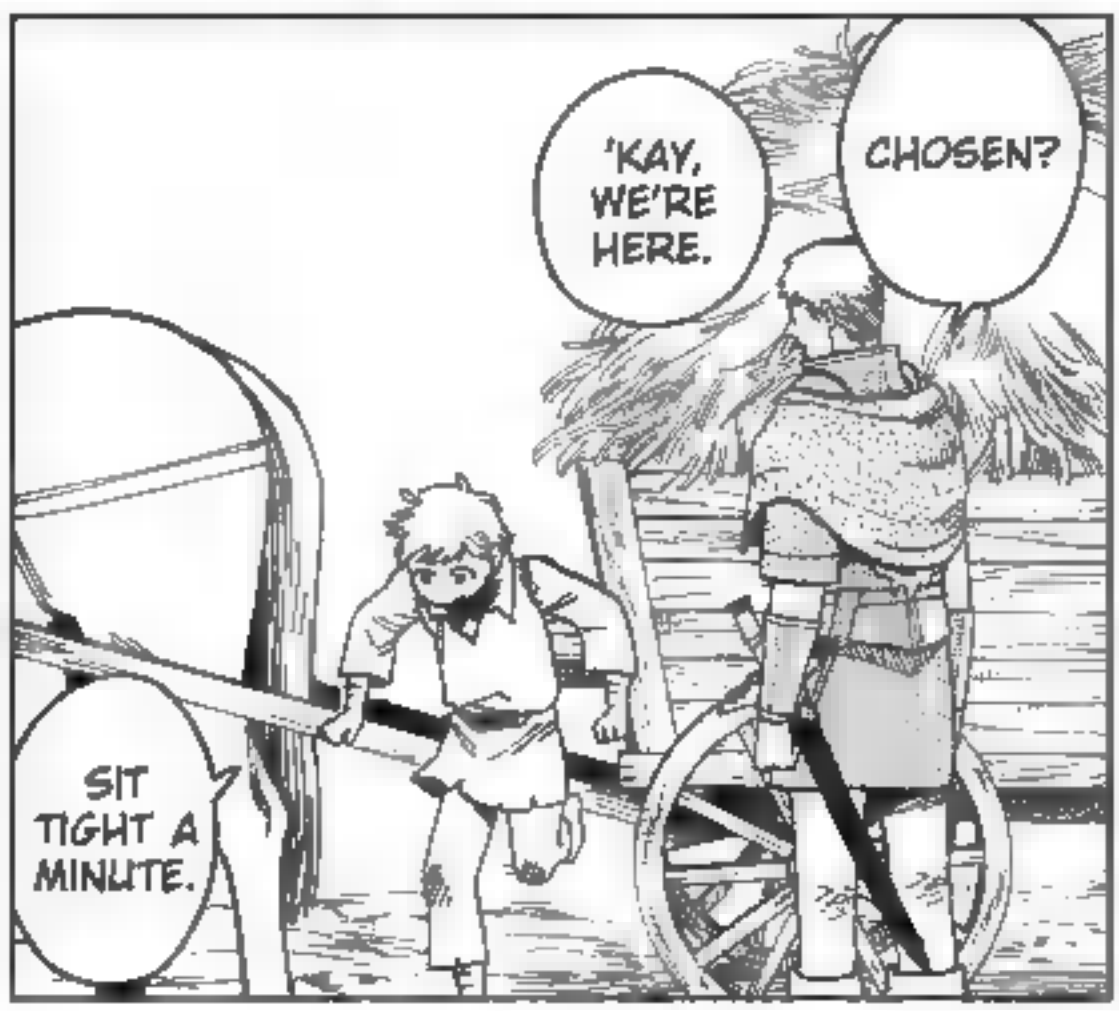
IS IT TELEPORTATION SICKNESS?
MAYBE SHE GOT TIRED?

KUNYAN (WILT)

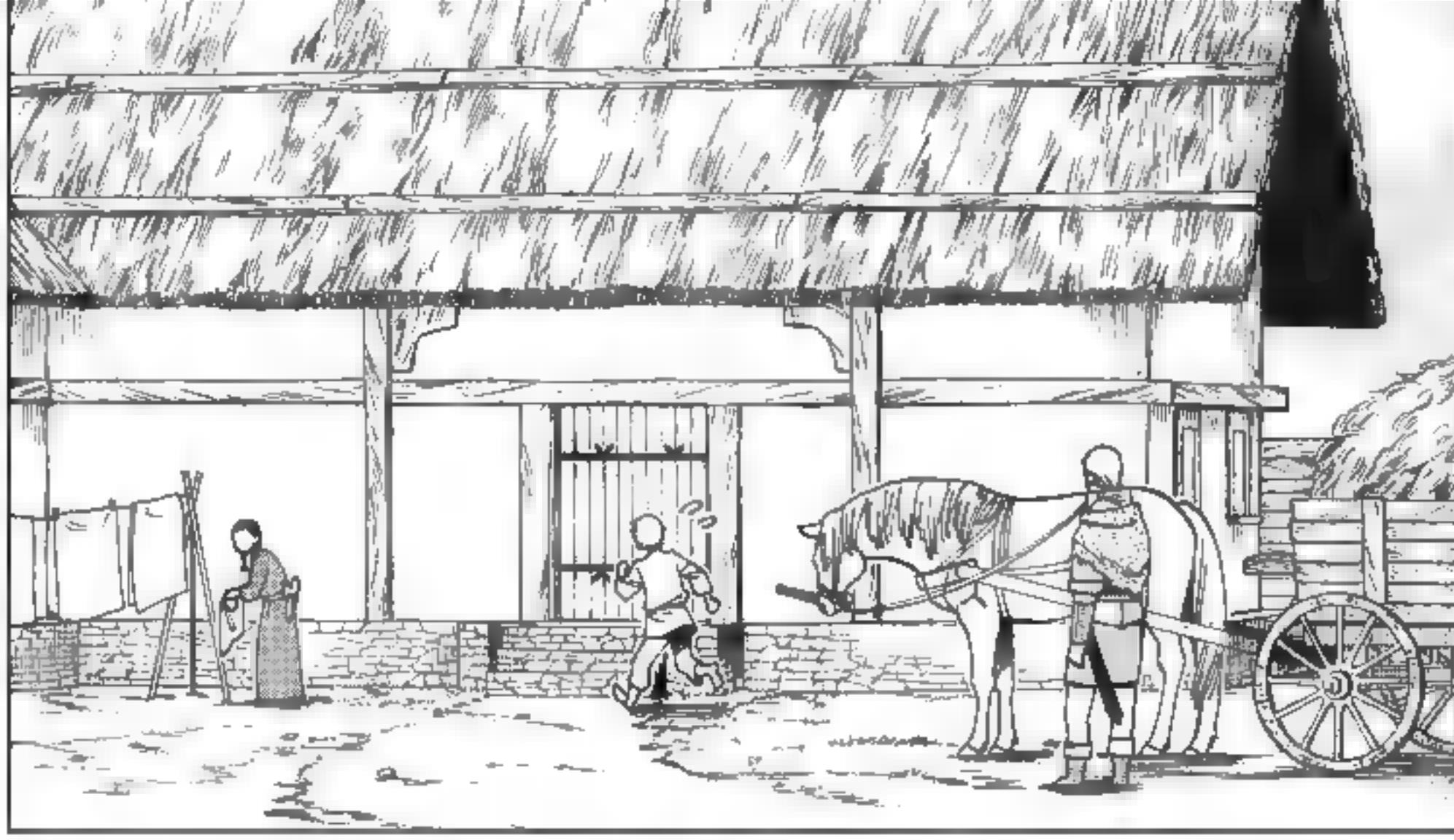
IZU-TSUMI?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?


ARE THEY RESIDENTS TOO?
THE GHOSTS BROUGHT US HERE...
THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S NOT GOLDEN AT ALL, IS IT?
IS THAT THE GOLDEN CASTLE IN THE DISTANCE?
YEAH. YOU CAME THROUGH THERE.


'KAY, WE'RE HERE.
CHOSEN?
SIT TIGHT A MINUTE.

YOU CAN GET THE FULL STORY FROM THE ONE YOU'RE ABOUT TO MEET.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
...WHY YOU GOT CHOSEN EITHER.



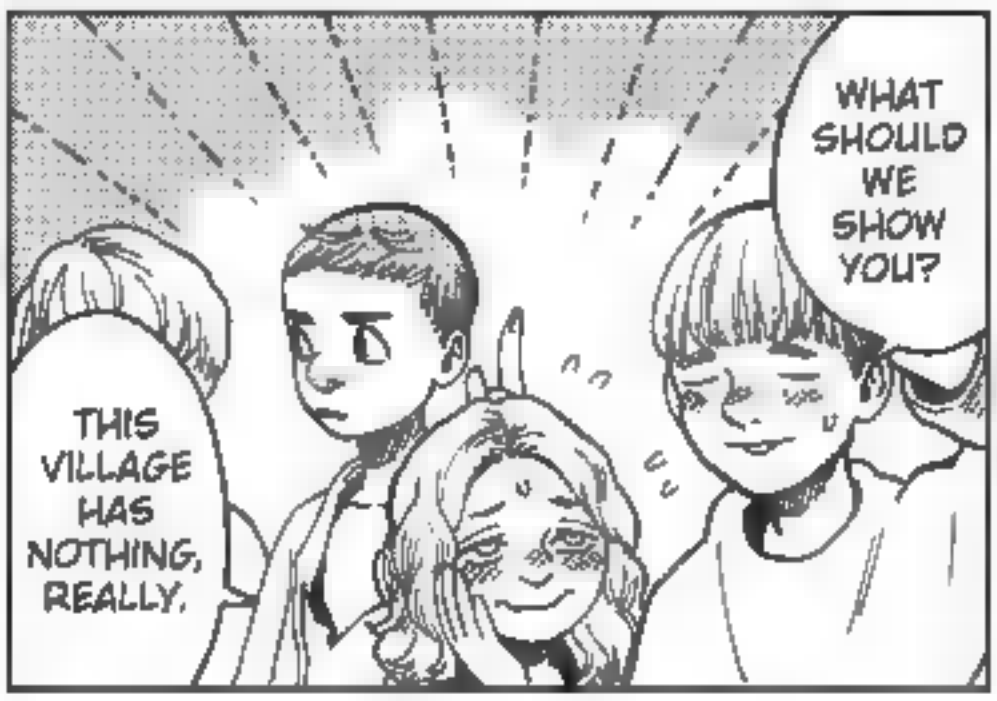
WHAT!? THEM!?

BOSO CMUTTERD
BOSO
THEY'RE THE...

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
THE MASTER'S GONE TO WORSHIP.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ALL DYING TO GET TO KNOW YOU ANYWAY.

UNTIL OUR MASTER COMES BACK...
SORRY. LOOKS LIKE OUR TIMING WAS OFF.
...MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME IN THE VILLAGE.


WHAT SHOULD WE SHOW YOU?
THIS VILLAGE HAS NOTHING, REALLY.

WA! (CHATTER)
WA!

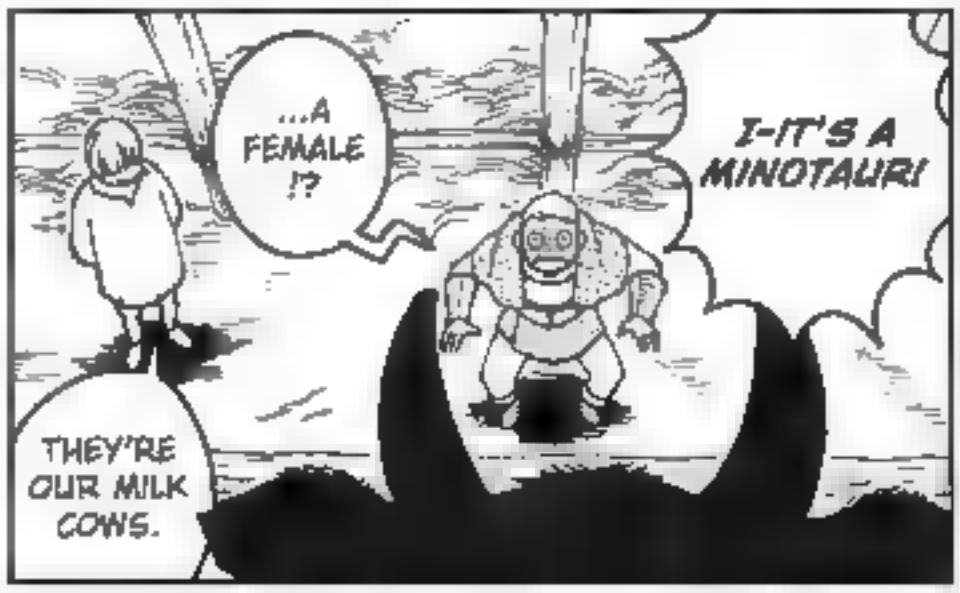
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
THERE AREN'T ANY ELDERLY.
They look like normal people...
These are ■ residents of the golden castle?

YAAAY!

HUH!? YOU'D SETTLE FOR THAT?
SURE, WE CAN TAKE YOU THERE.

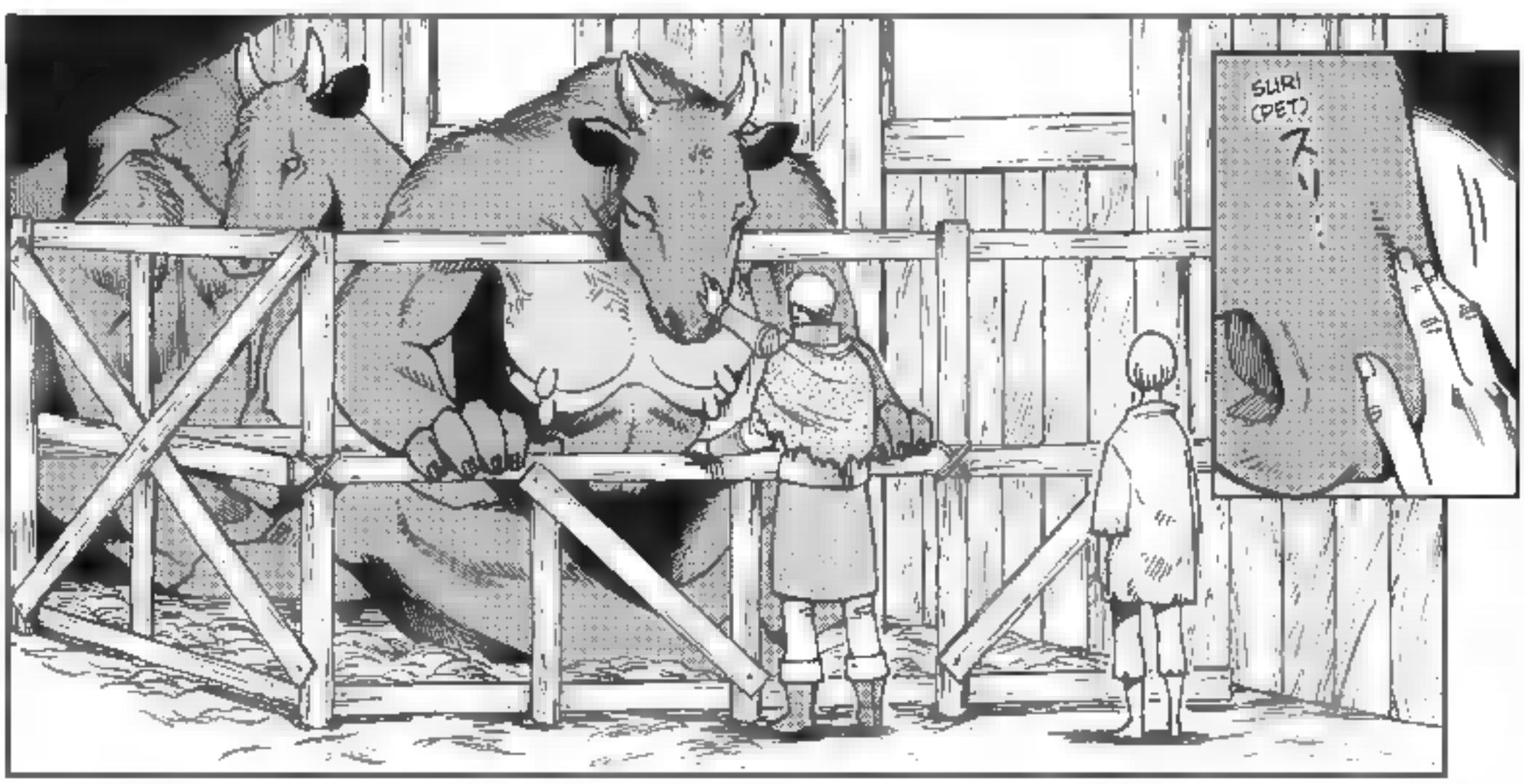
THEN...
...I THINK I'D LIKE TO SEE WHERE YOU RAISE MONSTERS.
I WANT TO TOUR THE FIELDS WE SAW ON THE WAY.

I CAN'T LEAVE IZUTSUMI ON HER OWN ANYWAY.
I'LL WAIT HERE.
ME TOO.
ZAARI (SLURP) ZAARI...
IN THAT CASE, COME INSIDE, PLEASE.


...A FEMALE !?
I-IT'S A MINOTAUR!
THEY'RE OUR MILK COWS.

REGULAR LIVESTOCK WAS HARD TO GET.
AND THEY DON'T LIVE LONG.
HUH? NO REAL REASON.
WHY DO YOU HAVE MONSTERS AS LIVE-STOCK?

MONSTERS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE.


SURI (PET)

OVER HERE! THIS WAY!

THERE'S A LOT OF WASTE, YEAH.

DO T[redacted] VILLAGERS USE ALL OF THIS?

THEY SEEM A BIT TOO LARGE, THOUGH...

HM!

THESE ARE FINE, WELL-TENDED FIELDS.

PLEASE TAKE SOME WITH YOU.

WELL, I'LL BE...

EVEN IF WE'RE JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS, WE LIVE L[redacted]E WE DID ABOVE-GROUND.

WE GIVE SOME TO THE ORCS.

STILL, WITHOUT FIELDS, WE'D HAVE NOTHING TO DO, SO...

IZU-TSUMI, ARE YOU OKAY?

DOES SHE HAVE A FEVER?

PRRR...

PRRR...

E-EXCUSE ME...!

COULD WE TALK TO YOU FOR A LITTLE BIT!?

SHE DOESN'T SEEM UN-COMFORT-ABLE.

PRRRR...

YAAY!
IF YOU'RE SURE I'LL DO, THEN...

THAT'S RIGHT! WE WANT SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE TO WEAR THE CLOTHES WE MADE.
WE DRESS ONE ANOTHER IN THEM, BUT IT'S ALWAYS JUST US, SO IT'S BORING.

DRESSES ...?

I'M SORRY.
THEY MAY SEEM OLD-FASHIONED TO YOU, THOUGH.
OH, NO, THAT ISN'T...

キャっ KYA
RED, PERHAPS?
GOLD WOULD BE NICE AS WELL.
きゃっ KYA
KYA (CHAT)
WHICH SHOULD WE TRY!?
I THINK ANY COLOR WOULD SUIT HER, BUT...

OHHHH!
THIS ISN'T REALLY WHAT I EXPECTED.

THESE NEXT!
AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS OF ISOLATION, I SUPPOSE FASHIONS WOULD BE DIFFER-ENT.

ZAN (DUMP)

BWAAH!
NOW, THAT'S GOOD!

GUBI (CHUG)
GUBI
GUBI

I REALLY LIKE THE ASSERTIVE HOPS.
I'M PRETTY PICKY ABOUT MY DRINK, BUT...
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR.
YEAH, NOT BAD.

WAITING FOR THE BATH
WHO COULD GET DRUNK ON WINE THAT'S LIKE WATER?
...SAY, DO YOU MAKE WINE TOO?
OH.

NICE.
THE HOPS WERE THEIR REQUEST.
I SERVE IT TO THE ORCS, AND THE RECENT STUFF...
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH LIQUOR THEY LIKE.
...HAS GONE OVER PARTIC-ULARLY WELL.

GUBI
...I SEE.

THAT'S A FINE OLD BREWERY!
WHAT GENERATION ARE YOU?
YOU MEAN AS CHIEF BREWER? I STARTED THIS WHEN I WAS SIX HUNDRED, SO I'M THE FIRST.

WE'VE MAKIN' ALE FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, THOUGH, SO COMPARED WITH THAT, IT'S HAVING A ROUGH TIME.
YEAH, ACTUALLY, I STARTED JUST RECENTLY.
FOUR HUN-DRED YEARS!

HEY, GOOD FOR YOU.
KEEP IT TO YOUR-SELF.

THEY HAVE FOUR TEATS, JUST LIKE A COW...

THEY LET ME MILK A MINOTAUR !!

NOW THAT I'M LOOKING, THIS CUP A MONSTER FANG!?
I SEE. GRAFTING. HOW CLEVER.
A-FANG FROM WHAT?

INCRED-IBLE!
THEY'VE COMPLETELY SUCCEEDED IN CULTIVATING MONSTERS HERE!
JUST LOOK AT THAT VAST DRYAD GARDEN.

THIS IS GONNA MAKE ME SICK...

IN ANOTHER ROOM.
WHAT TRIGGERED THAT ASSOCIATION, HUH?
SAY, WHERE ARE MARCILLE AND IZU-TSUMI?
SOMEONE WENT TO GET THEM, SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE SOON.

STILL, THAT WAS QUITE THE EXPERI-ENCE.
GETTING TO MILK...

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...
S...

I...! THIS IS, UM...

I COULDN'T HELP IT! THEY ASKED ME TO.

WHAT ARE YOU WEAR-ING!?

KOFF!

HAVING FUN, HUH!?

KOFF! KOFF!

BWA-HA!

I DID CHOOSE THE TAMEST ONE, YOU KNOW.

THE NOT-SO-TAME ONES

WHY IS IZUTSUMI SO ATTACHED TO YOU?

OH! THIS!?

PET ME MOOORE.

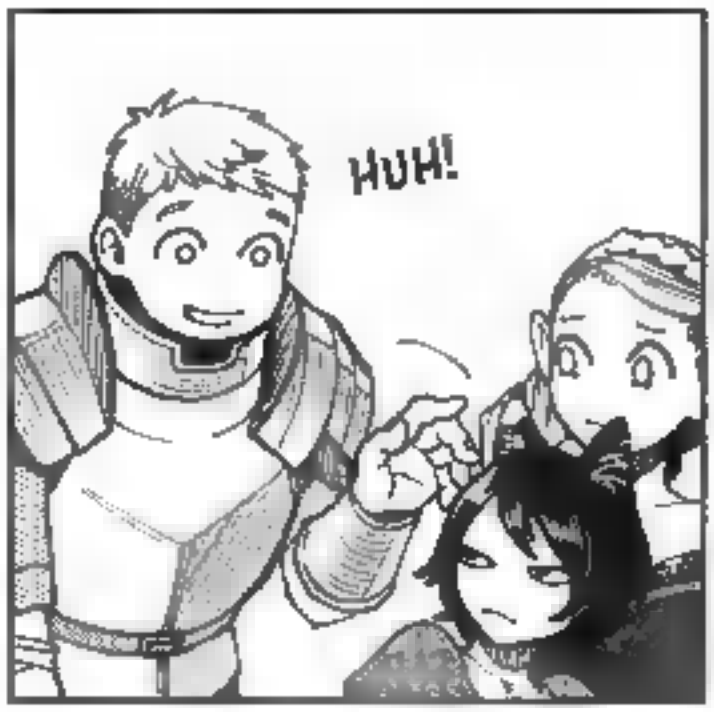
I DON'T KNOW! FUNNY, ISN'T IT !!?

MARCILLE, THAT...

WH...

WHAT?

DOKI (BADUMP)


HUH!

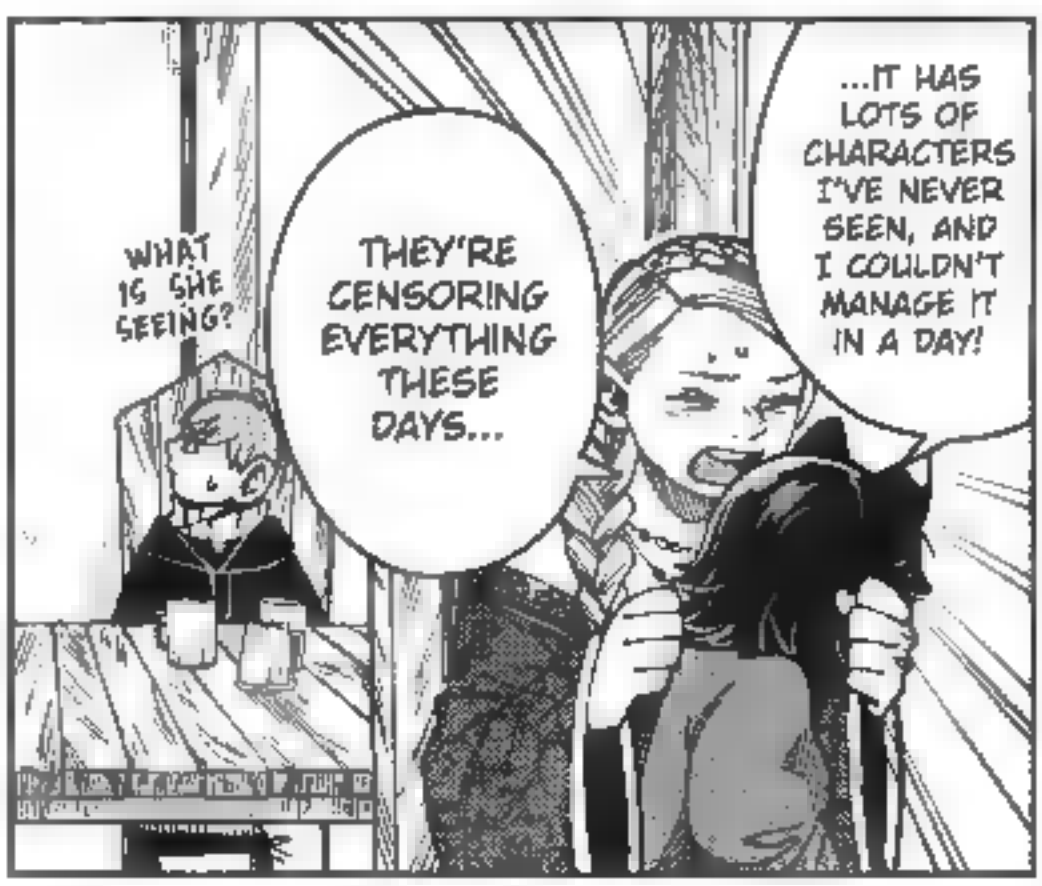
NUH-UH.

GUH!
DOSU (WHUMP)
ドス

SHE'S ACTING LIKE A LITTLE KID...

BECAUSE SHE'S HALF MONSTER?
...RIGHT.

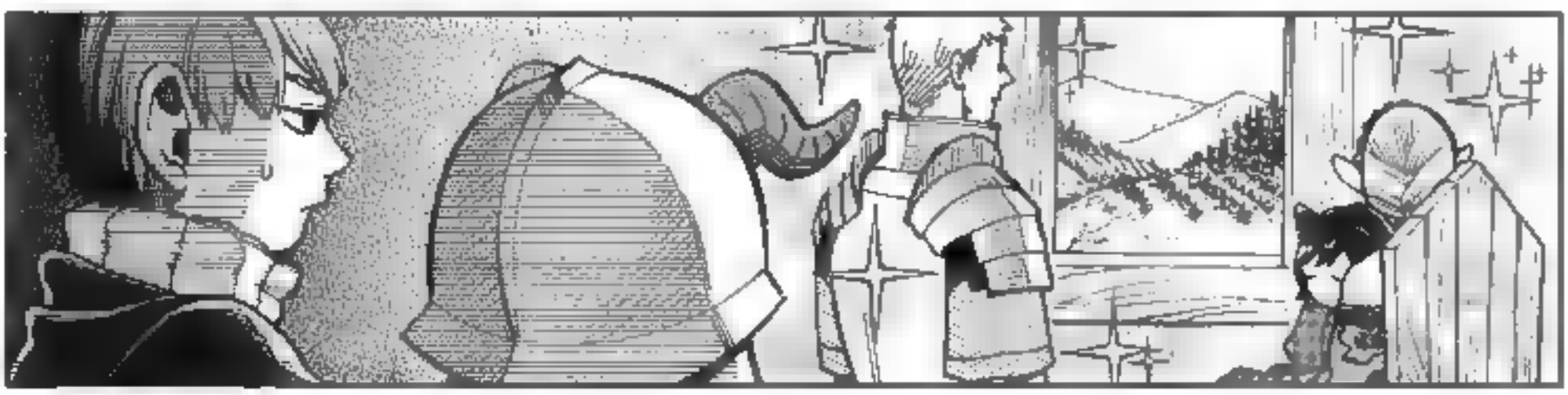
HEAVY...
THERE ARE LOTS OF BARRIERS CAST HERE, ONE OVER ANOTHER.
THEY MAY BE INTERFERING WITH IZUTSUMI SOMEHOW.

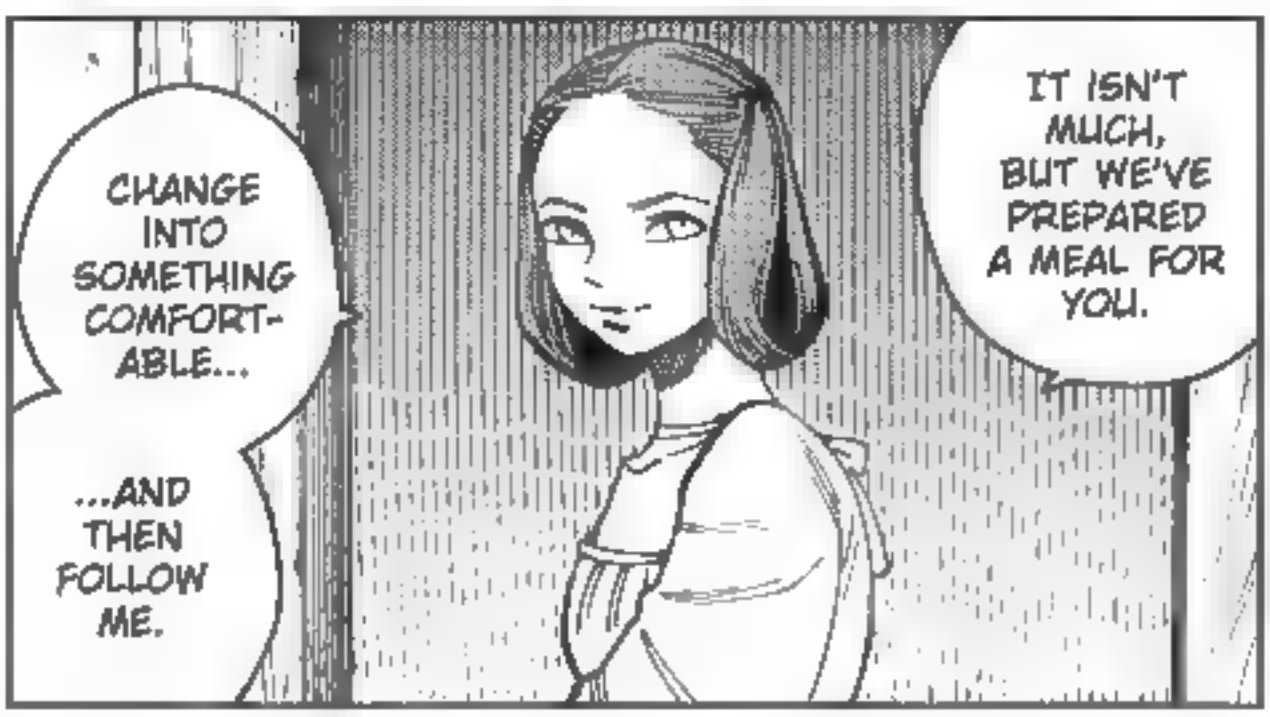

WHAT IS SHE SEEING?
THEY'RE CENSORING EVERYTHING THESE DAYS...
...IT HAS LOTS OF CHARACTERS I'VE NEVER SEEN, AND I COULDN'T MANAGE IT IN A DAY!

I'VE NEVER SEEN A BARRIER THAT MADE MONSTERS NON-AGGRESSIVE, THOUGH.
I WISH I COULD DECIPHER THIS, BUT...

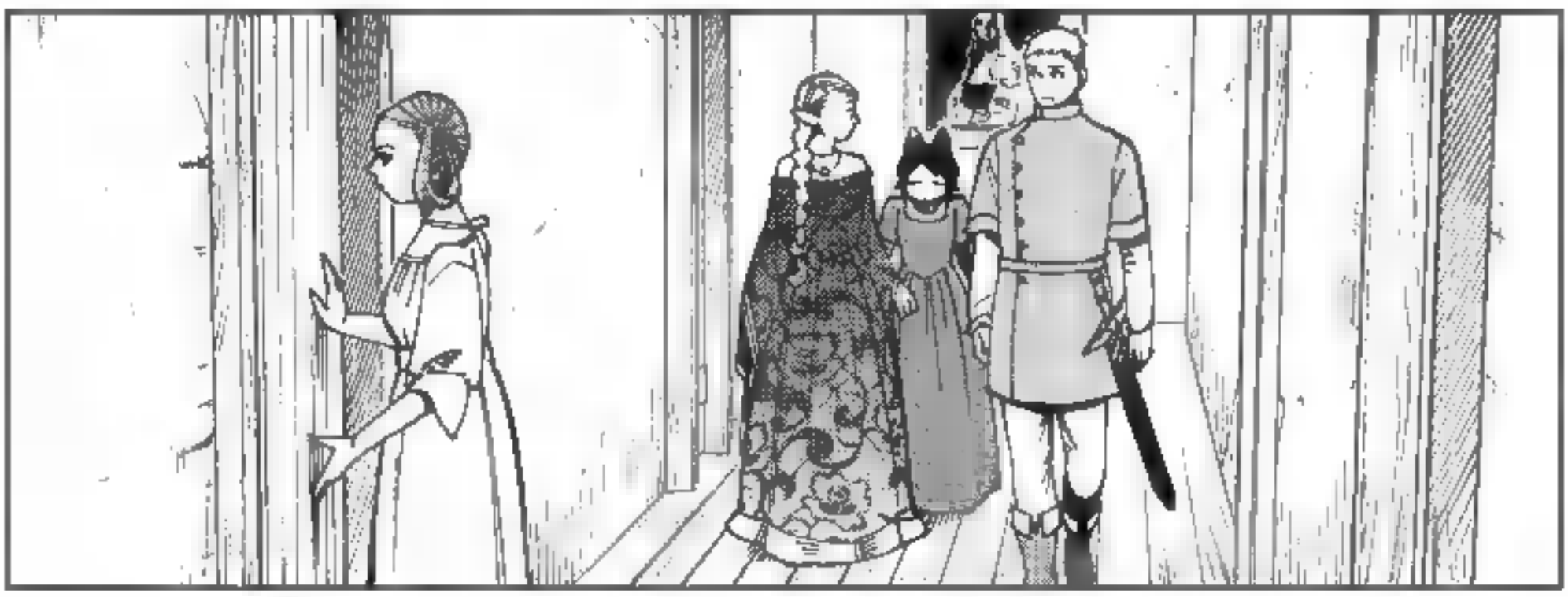
ME TOO...

THIS IS AN AMAZING PLACE, THOUGH.
UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUM-STANCES, I WOULDN'T MIND STAYING HERE FOREVER.

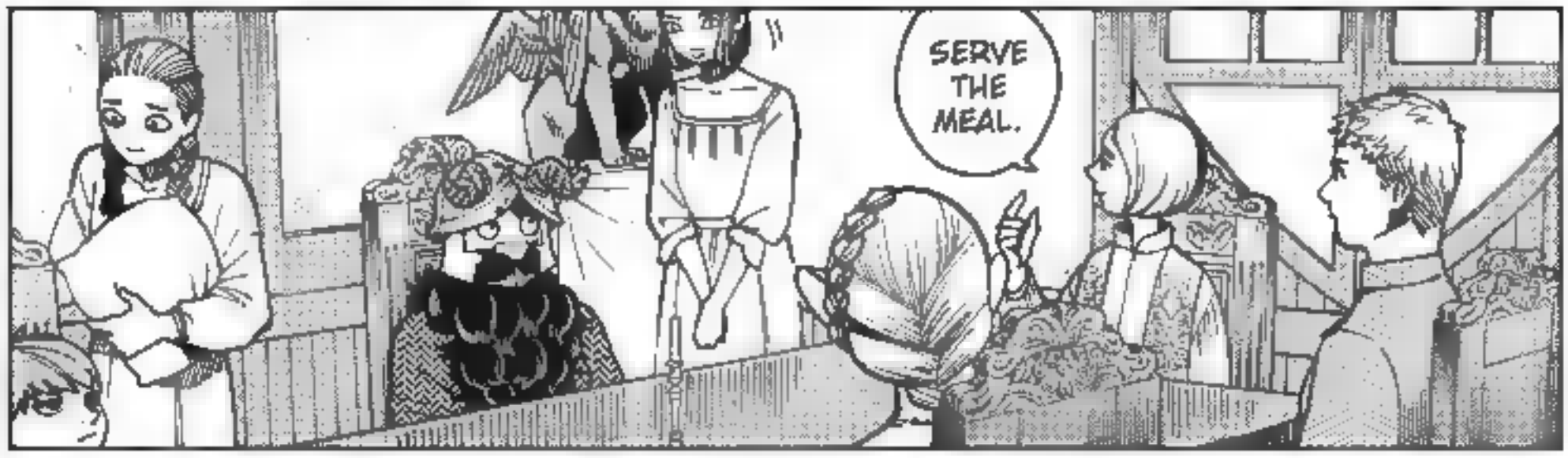


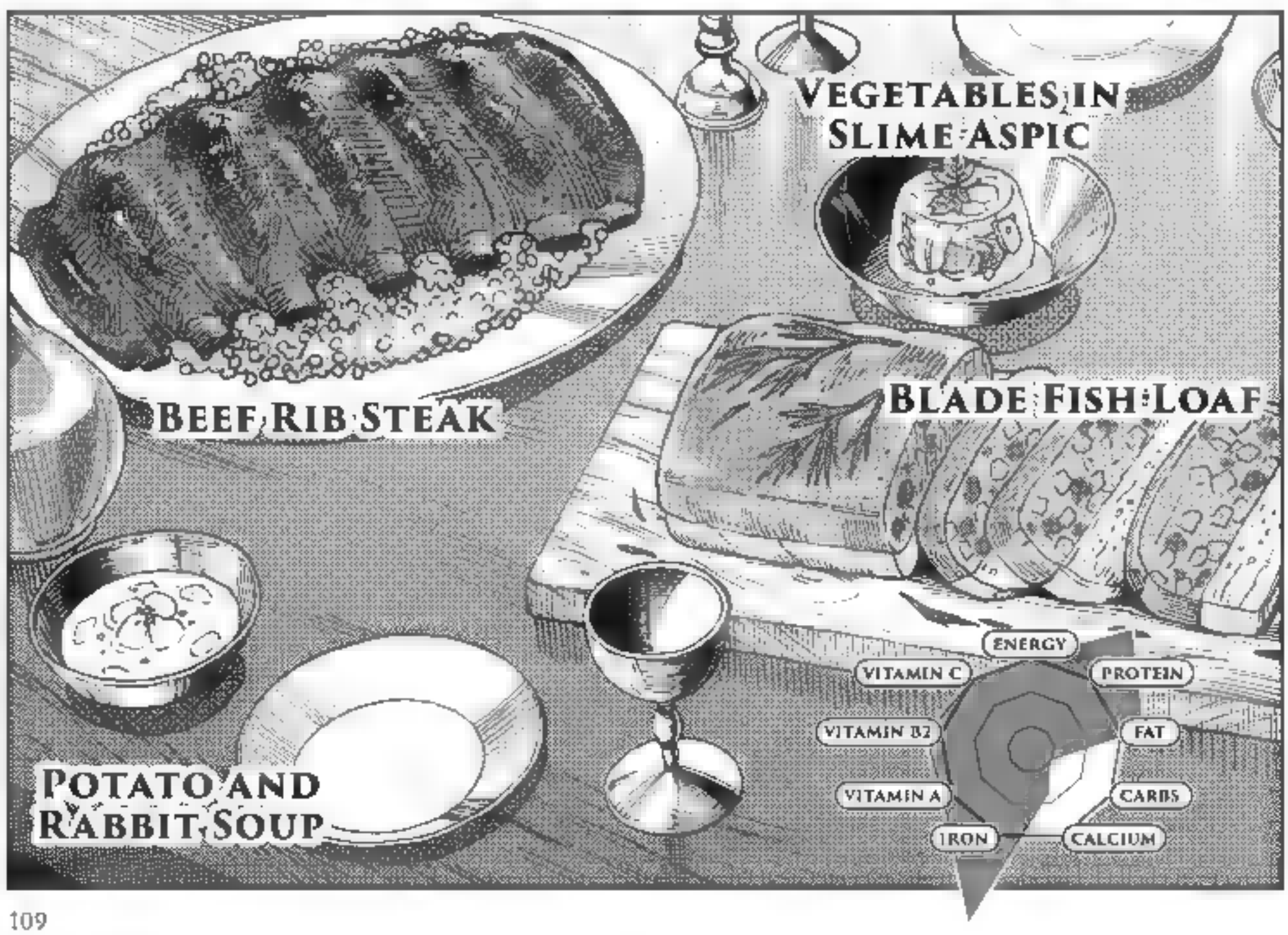

CHANGE INTO SOMETHING COMFORT-ABLE...
...AND THEN FOLLOW ME.
IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT WE'VE PREPARED A MEAL FOR YOU.

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT.

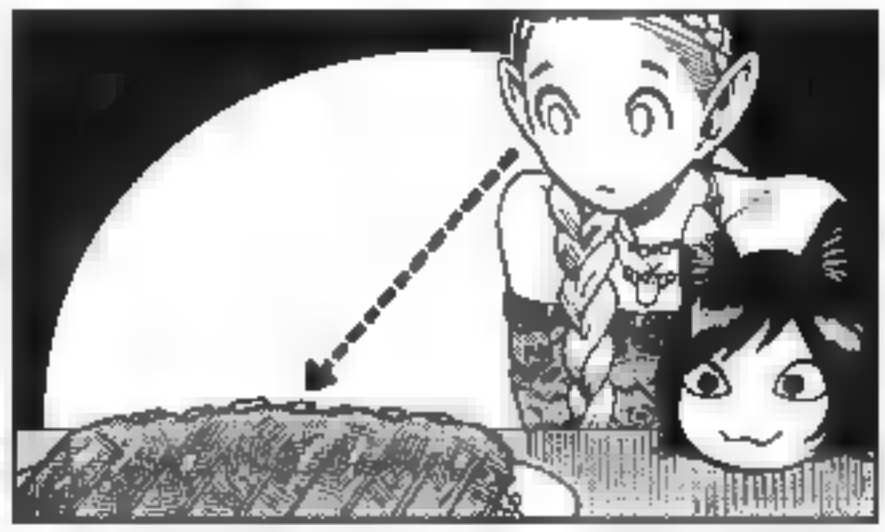


I'VE WANTED TO MEET YOU.
AH. WELCOME.
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW OF DELGAL.
HE'S MY GRAND-FATHER.
MY NAME IS YAAD.
WE CAN TALK AT OUR LEISURE...
...ABOUT WHY I CALLED YOU HERE.
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
DELGAL ...

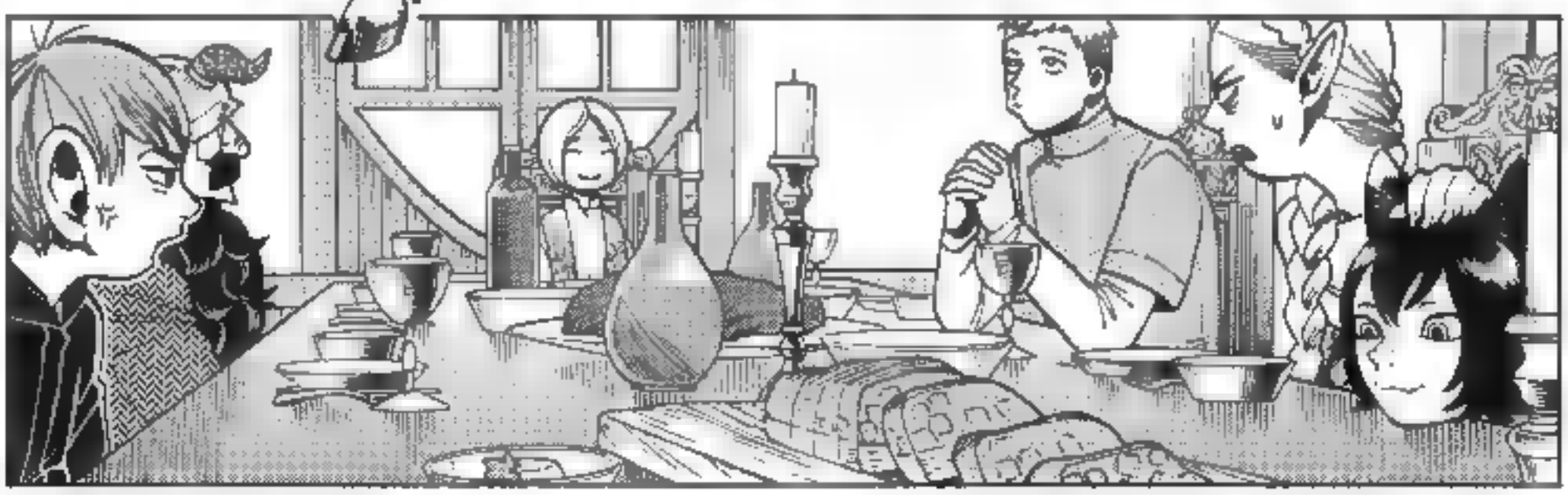

SERVE THE MEAL.


VEGETABLES IN SLIME ASPIC
BEEF RIB STEAK
BLADE FISH LOAF
POTATO AND RABBIT SOUP
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C

MALE, FIVE YEARS OLD
AS YOUR GROUP SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED...
...IT'S MINOTAUR!



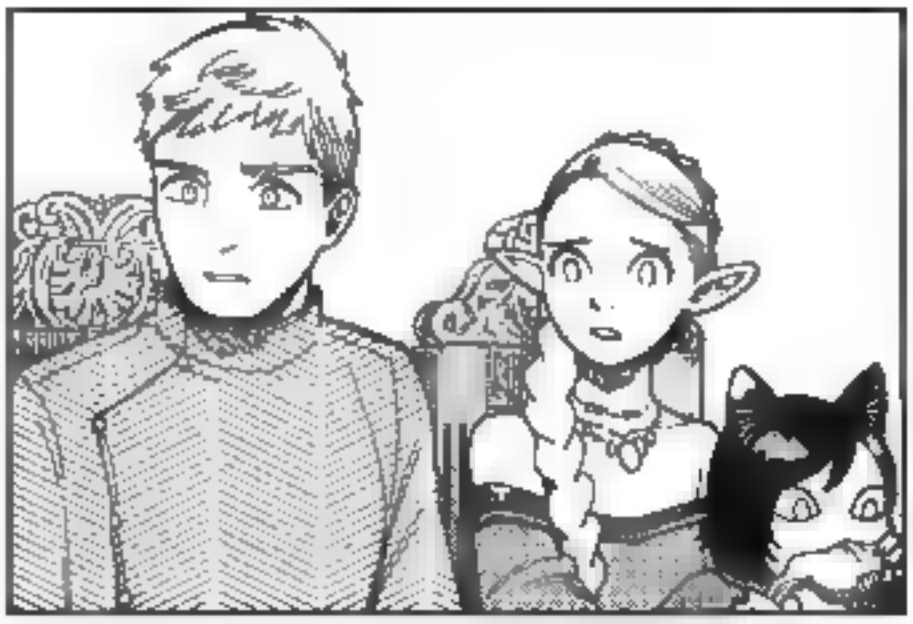
UM, WHAT IS THIS MEAT?
AH.



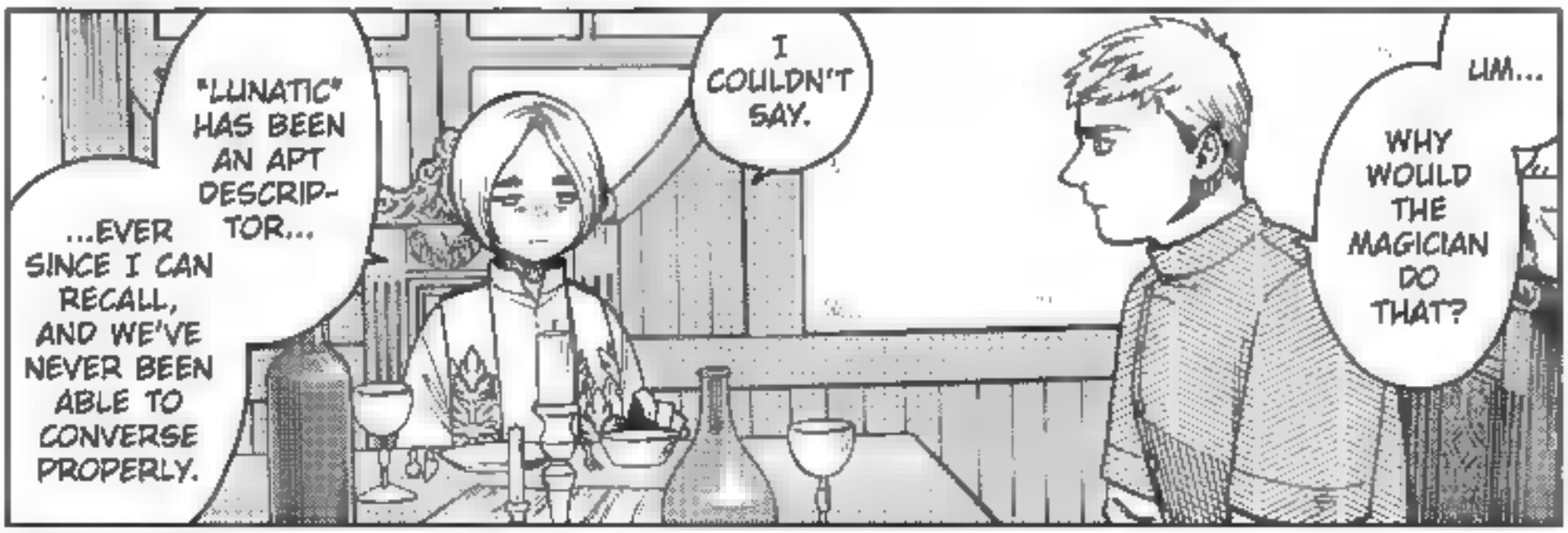
OUR SENSE OF TASTE HAS DULLED.
THAT'S PART OF IT, BUT WE ALSO DON'T FEEL HUNGER.

HUH?

DO YOUR PEOPLE ROUTINELY EAT MONSTERS TOO?
SOME DO, BUT...
...AS A RULE, WE DON'T EAT AT ALL.



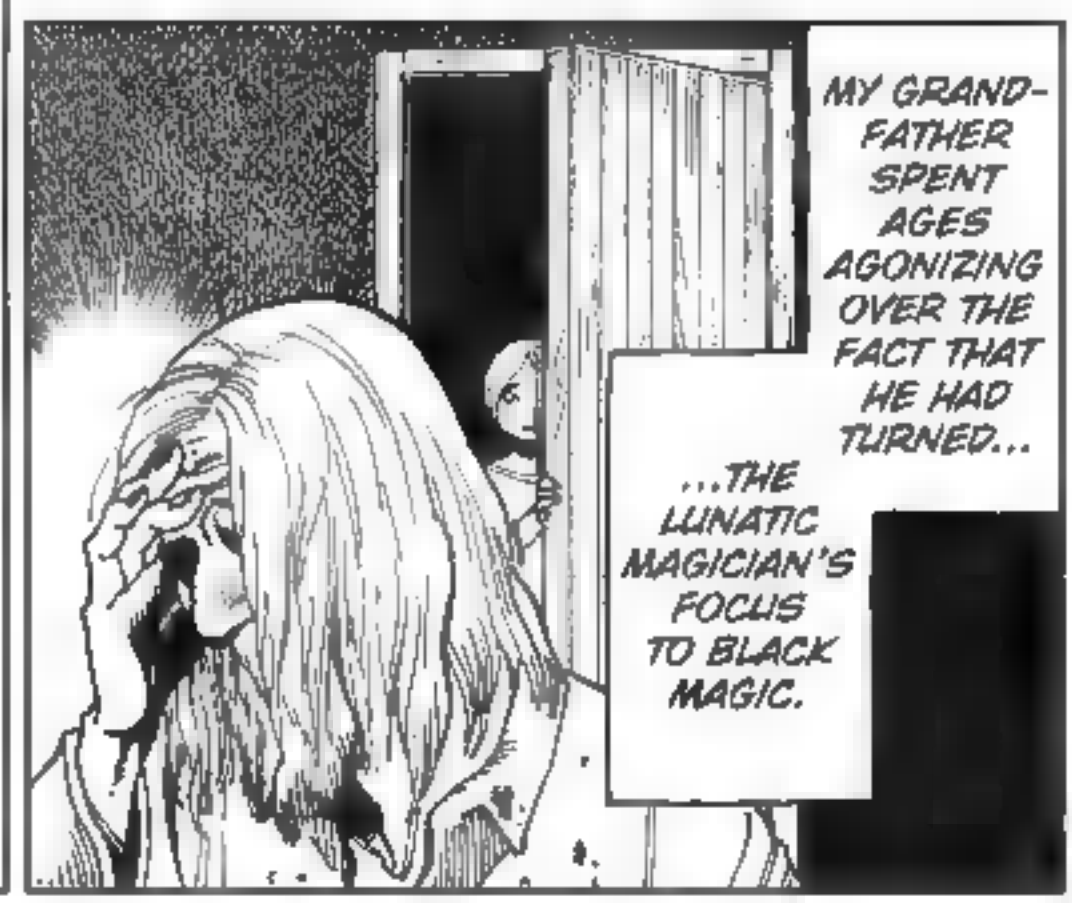
IT'S THE SPELL OF IMMORTALI-TY...
...THAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN CAST ON US.


...EVER SINCE I CAN RECALL, AND WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONVERSE PROPERLY.
"LUNATIC" HAS BEEN AN APT DESCRIP-TOR...
I COULDN'T SAY.
UM...
WHY WOULD THE MAGICIAN DO THAT?

WE CAN'T VERY WELL SAY WE DON'T WANT TO EAT THIS NOW.

DON'T MIND ME, THOUGH.
PLEASE, EAT YOUR FILL.
EVEN IF WE HAVE NO APPETITE, IT'S NICE TO SEE OTHERS EAT.

THEN HE SET OFF FOR THE WORLD ABOVE, TO FIND HELP.


MY GRAND-FATHER SPENT AGES AGONIZING OVER THE FACT THAT HE HAD TURNED...
...THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN'S FOCUS TO BLACK MAGIC.

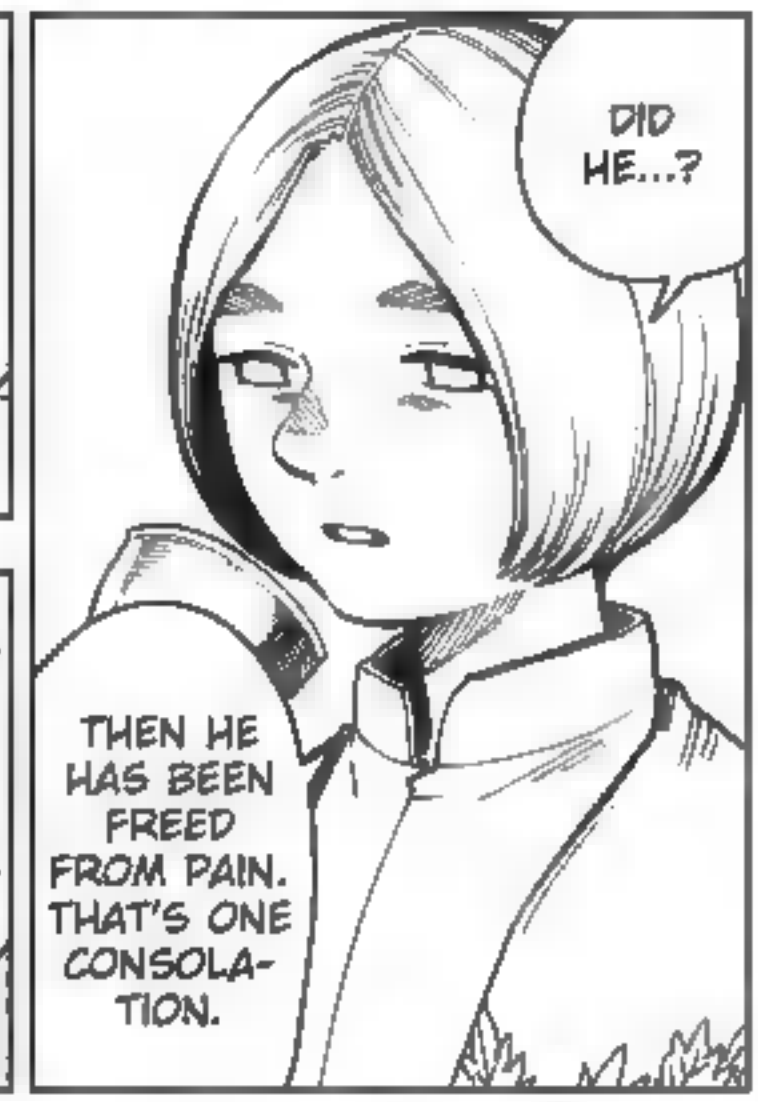
...HE TURNED TO DUST.
MOGU CHUNCHO

HE SAID HE WAS THE KING OF A RUINED KINGDOM...
...AND THAT IT WOULD ALL BELONG TO WHOEVER DEFEATED THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN. AND THEN...
FROM WHAT I HEAR...
...HE APPEARED FROM THE VILLAGE'S UNDER-GROUND GRAVE-YARD.

ABOVE-GROUND...
...WHAT DO THEY SAY OF MY GRAND-FATHER DELGAL?

HOWEVER, NONE HAVE SUCCEEDED.
THEY MERELY LOSE THEIR PHYSICAL BODIES.
MANY HAVE TRIED TO ESCAPE THE SPELL BY LEAVING THE VILLAGE.

THEY AREN'T ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS PLACE.
WITHOUT BODIES, THEY GRADUALLY LOSE ALL SENSE OF SELF AND BECOME EVIL GHOSTS.


DID HE...?
THEN HE HAS BEEN FREED FROM PAIN. THAT'S ONE CONSOLA-TION.

YES. WE HAVE.

NOT ONLY THAT, WE HIT THEM WITH HOLY WATER AND MADE SORBET.

I EXPECT YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED A FEW OF THEM.

P... PROPHECY?

THE PROPHECY.

...WHY DID YOU INVITE US HERE?

S-SO THEN...

IT DOES HAVE WINGS, BUT...

YOU MEAN KENSUKE?

WINGED?

"THEY WILL DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN AND LIBERATE US."

"ONE SHALL COME WHO BEARS A WINGED SWORD.

THAT WINGED LION!

OHH!

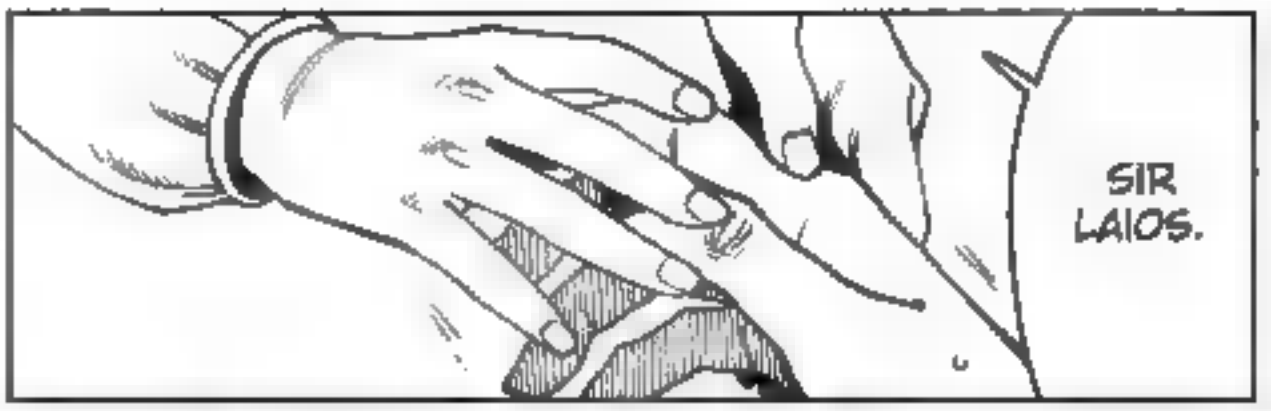
WHEN DID THAT GET THERE?

IT HAS A LION FACE ON IT!

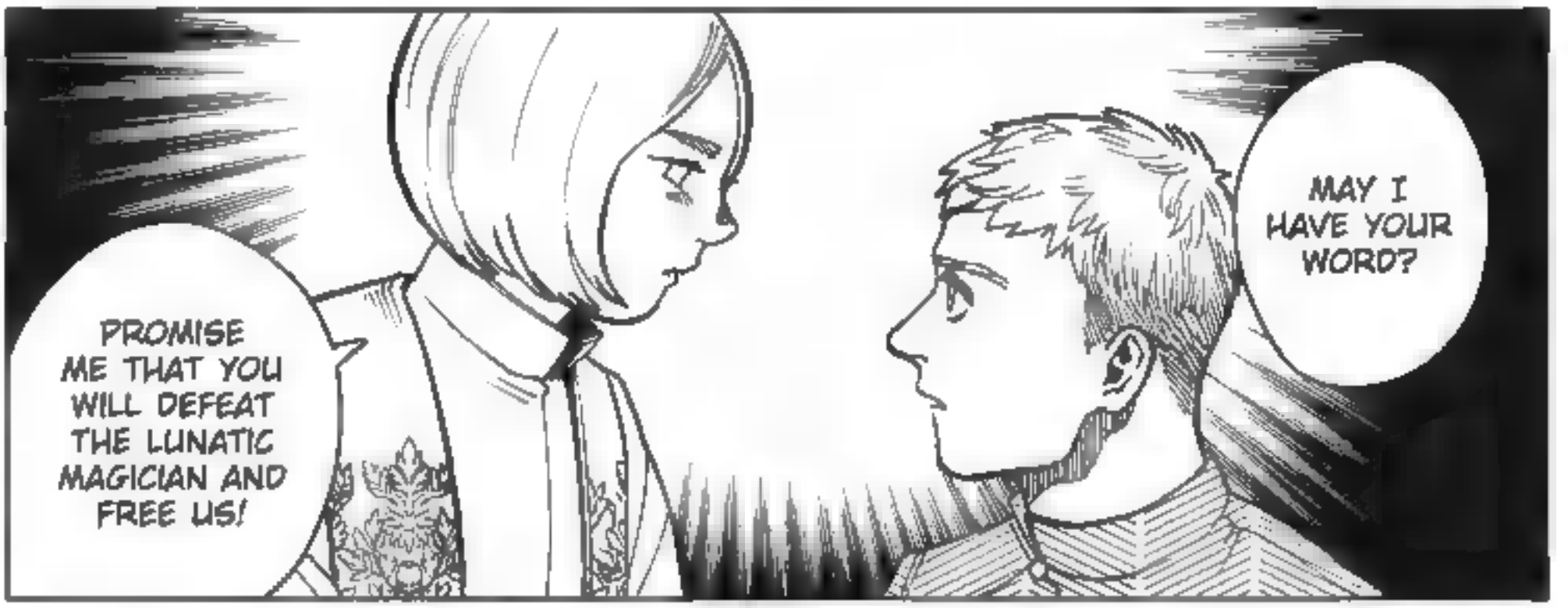
HUH !?

"...AND BECOME THE NEW KING OF THIS LAND."

THE FACT THAT IT IS THERE NOW...
...MUST HAVE BEEN PREORDAINED.
ガタ
GATA (CLATTER)
IT WAS NO ACCIDENT.


SIR LAIOS.

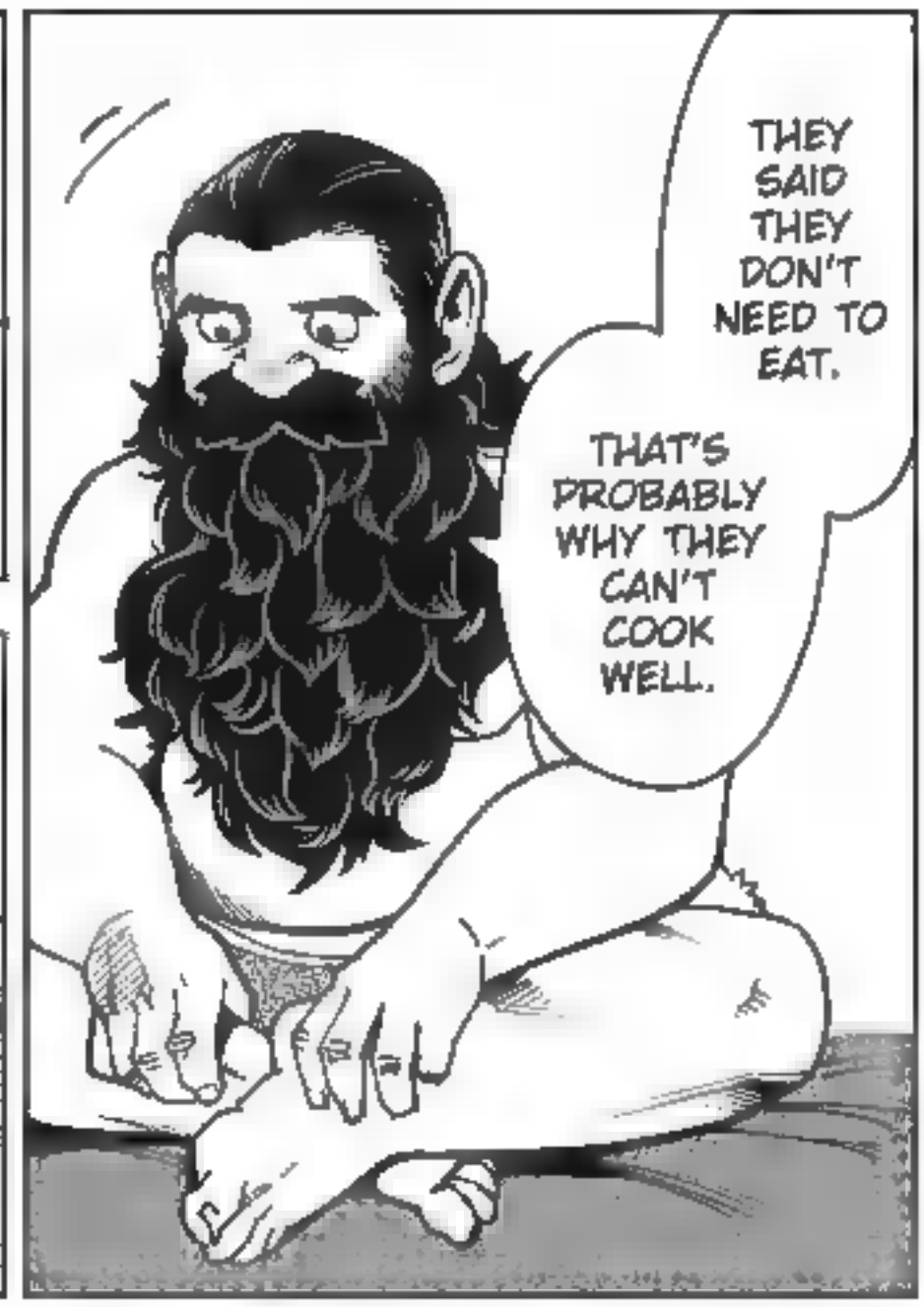
YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.
HE JUST PICKED UP THAT [redacted] BY ACCIDENT.

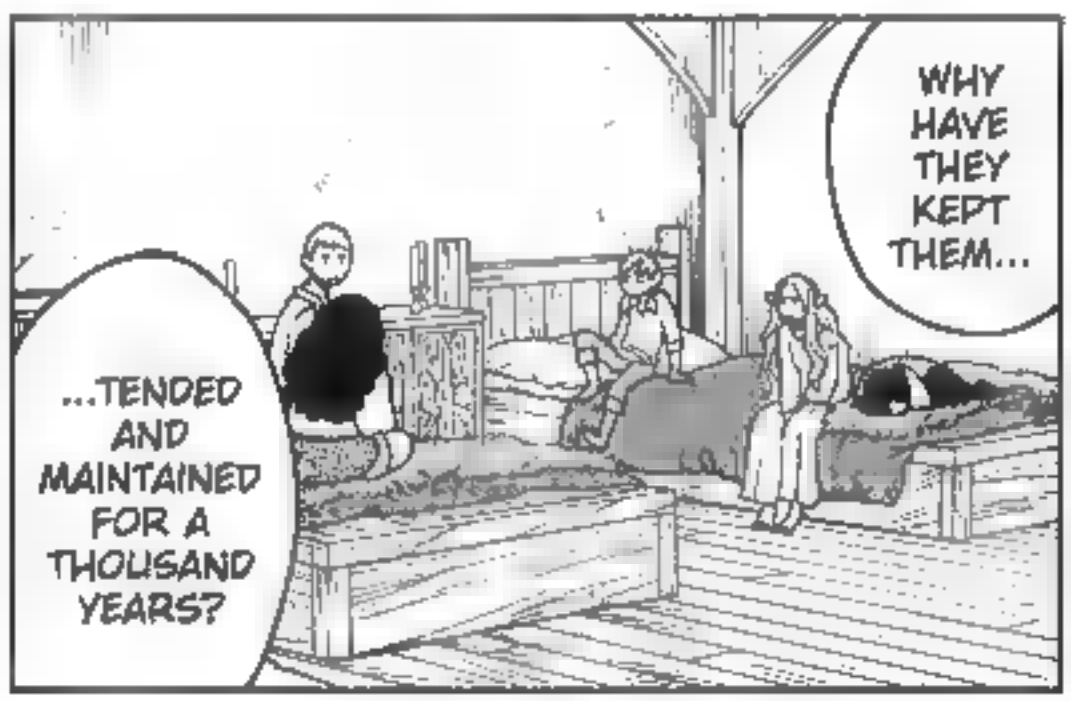

PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL DEFEAT THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN AND FREE US!
MAY I HAVE YOUR WORD?

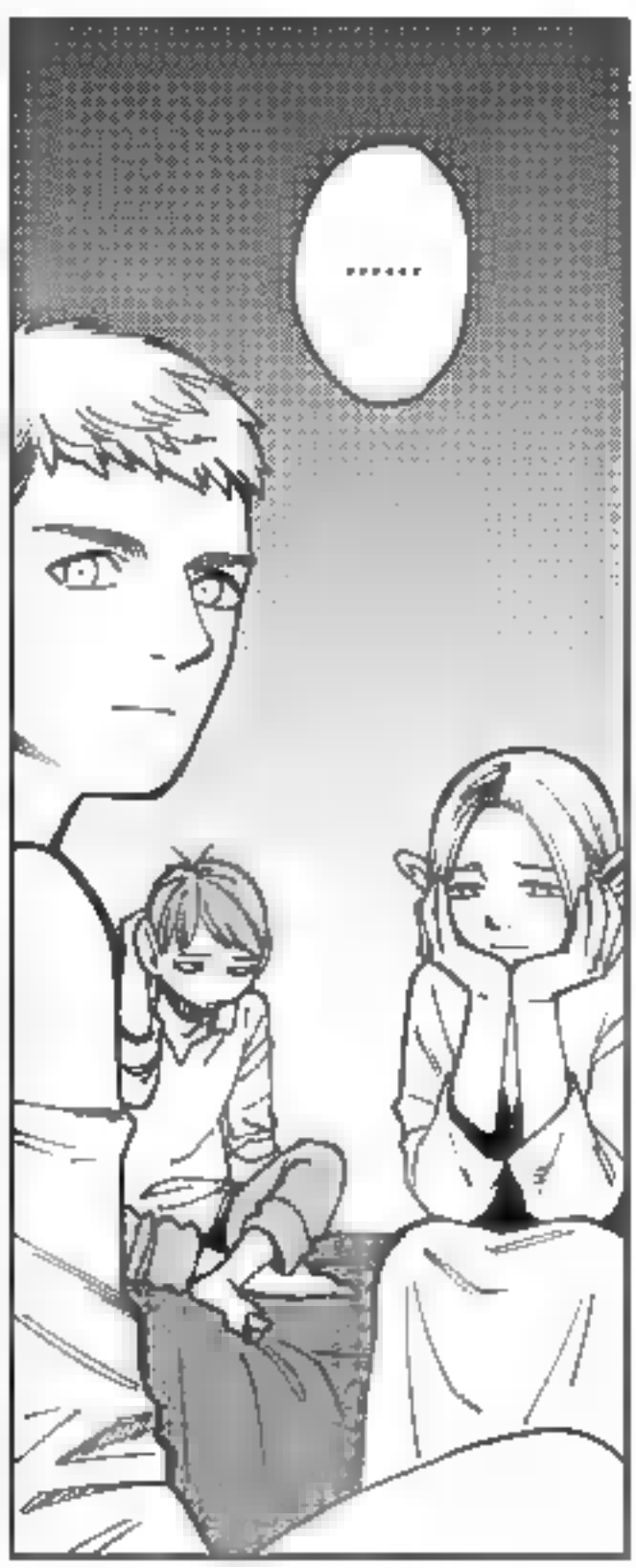
PLEASE LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.
THAT'S...
ぶわ
BUWA (SHUDDER)
UH...

LOOK, JUST TURN 'EM DOWN.

THEY DON'T REALLY NEED FIELDS OR DISHES...
...SO WHY DO THEY HAVE THEM?
I WAS THINKING.


THEY SAID THEY DON'T NEED TO EAT.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY CAN'T COOK WELL.


WHY HAVE THEY KEPT THEM...
...TENDED AND MAINTAINED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS?


.....

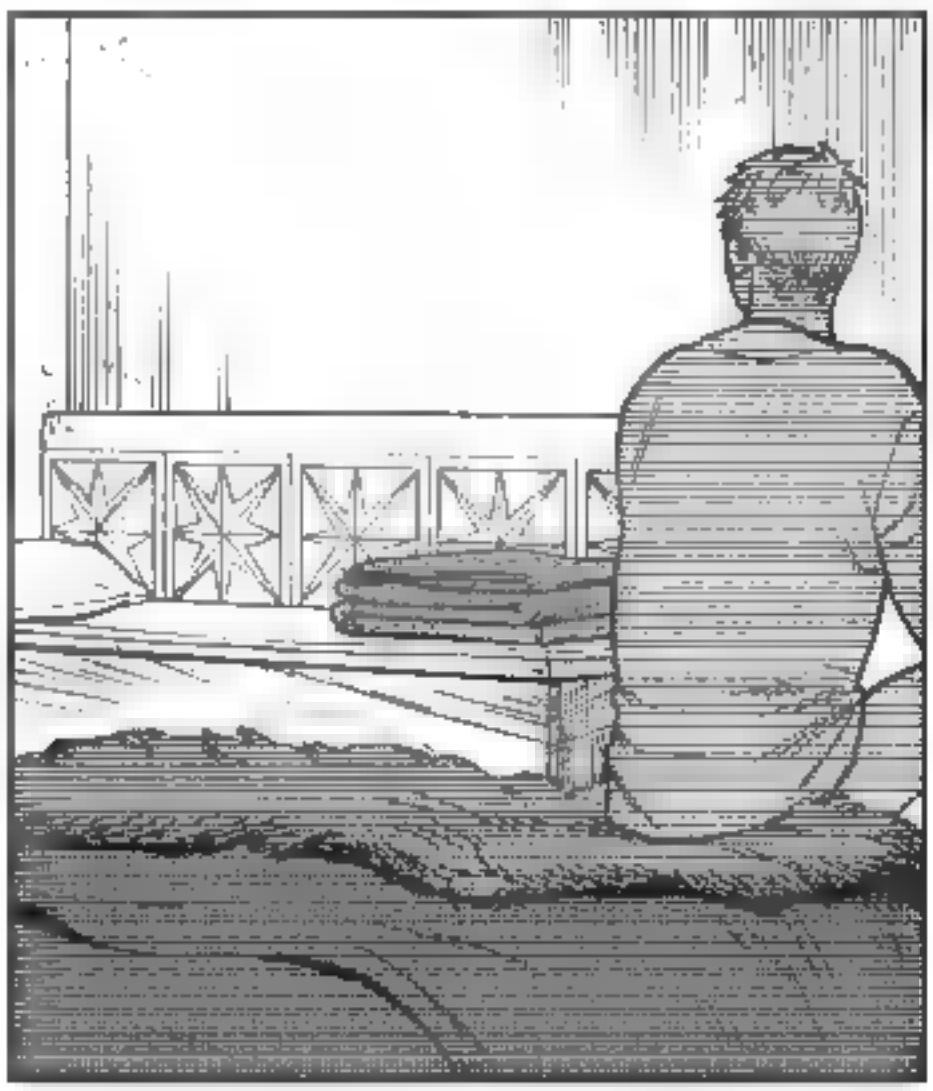
I IMAGINE IT'S BECAUSE THEY DO NEED THEM.
IN ORDER TO HOLD ON TO THEIR SANITY.

Chapter 46: The End

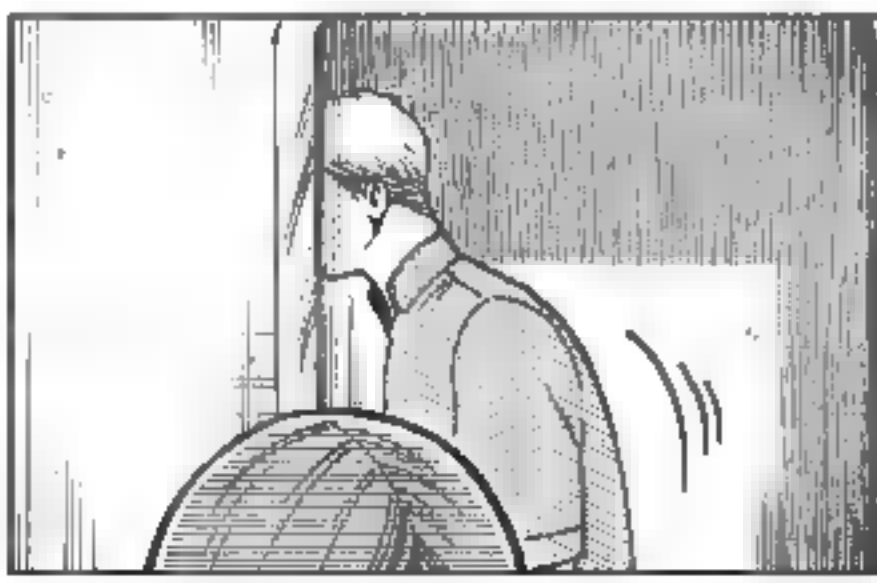
47. GRIFFIN

MUKURI (RISE)
SOME-THING SMELLS GOOD.

ぱち
PACHI (BLINK)

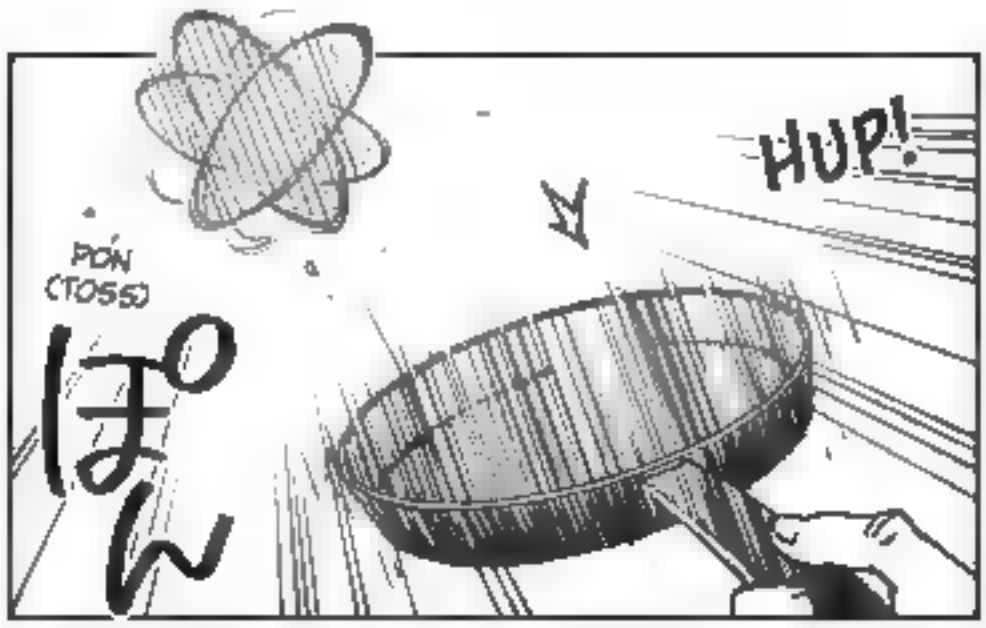


MNNH...

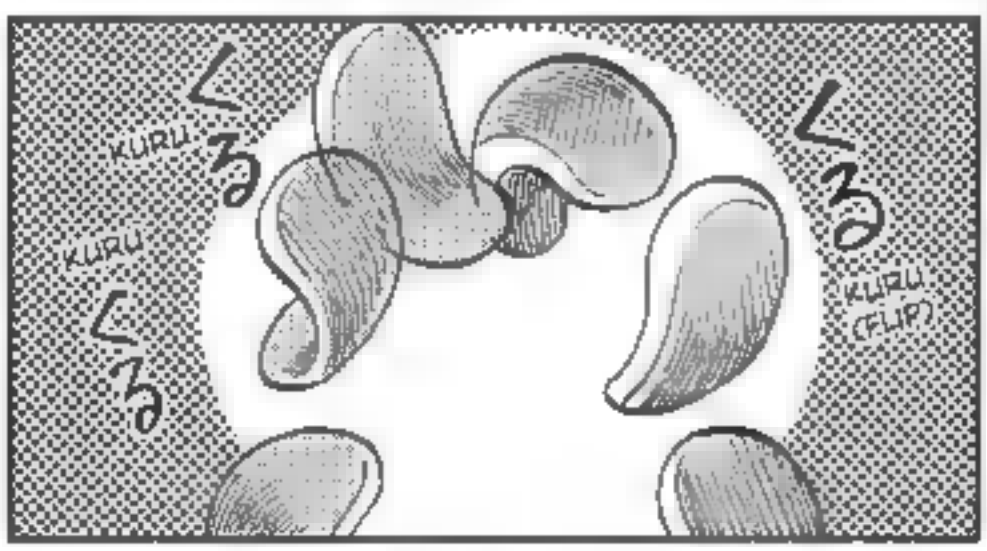


OH.
THERE YOU ARE.

SENSHI?


HUP!
PON (TOSS)
ぽん

HUP!
HUP!
HUP!

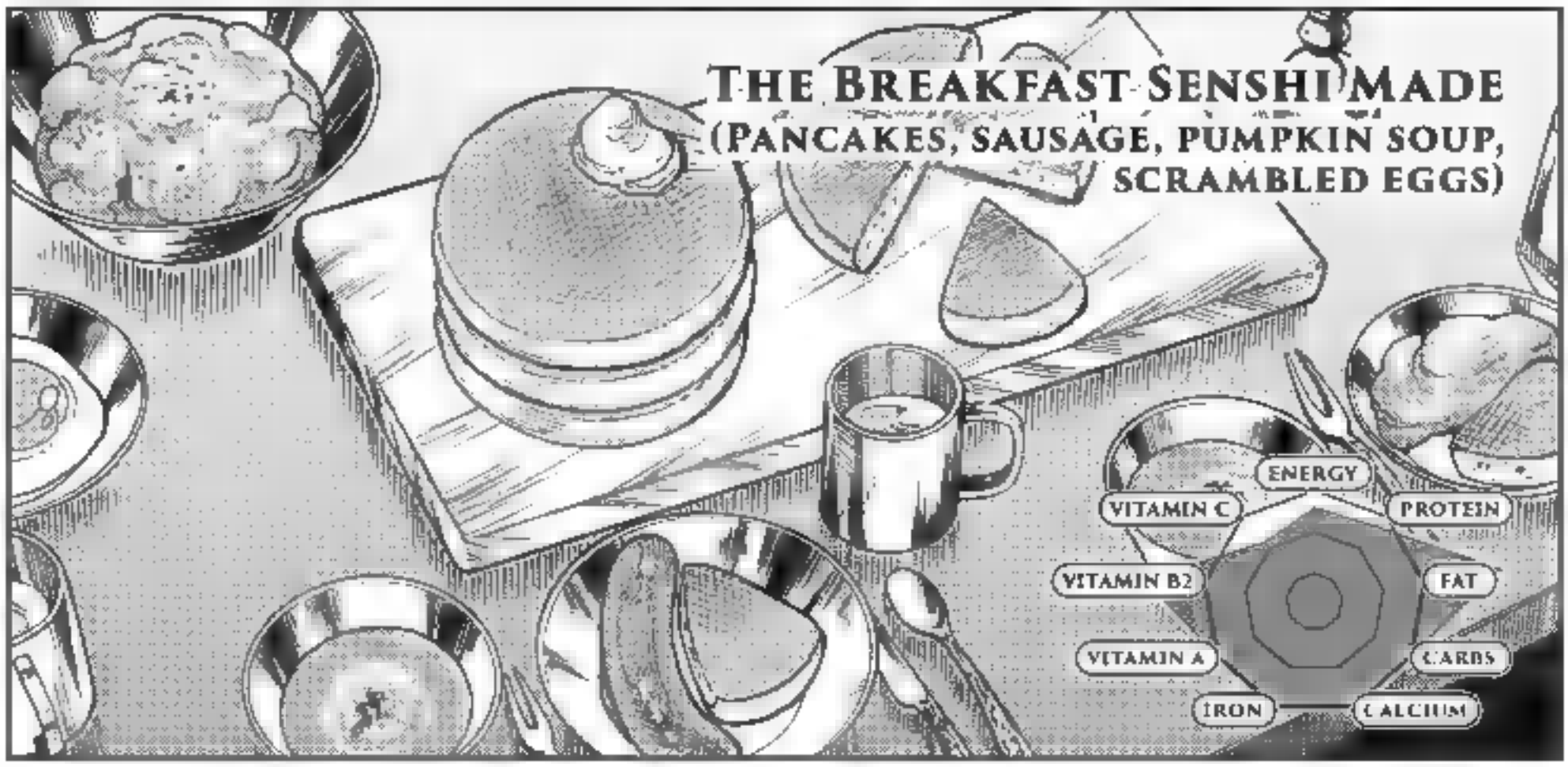

KURU
KURU
KURU
KURU (FLIP)

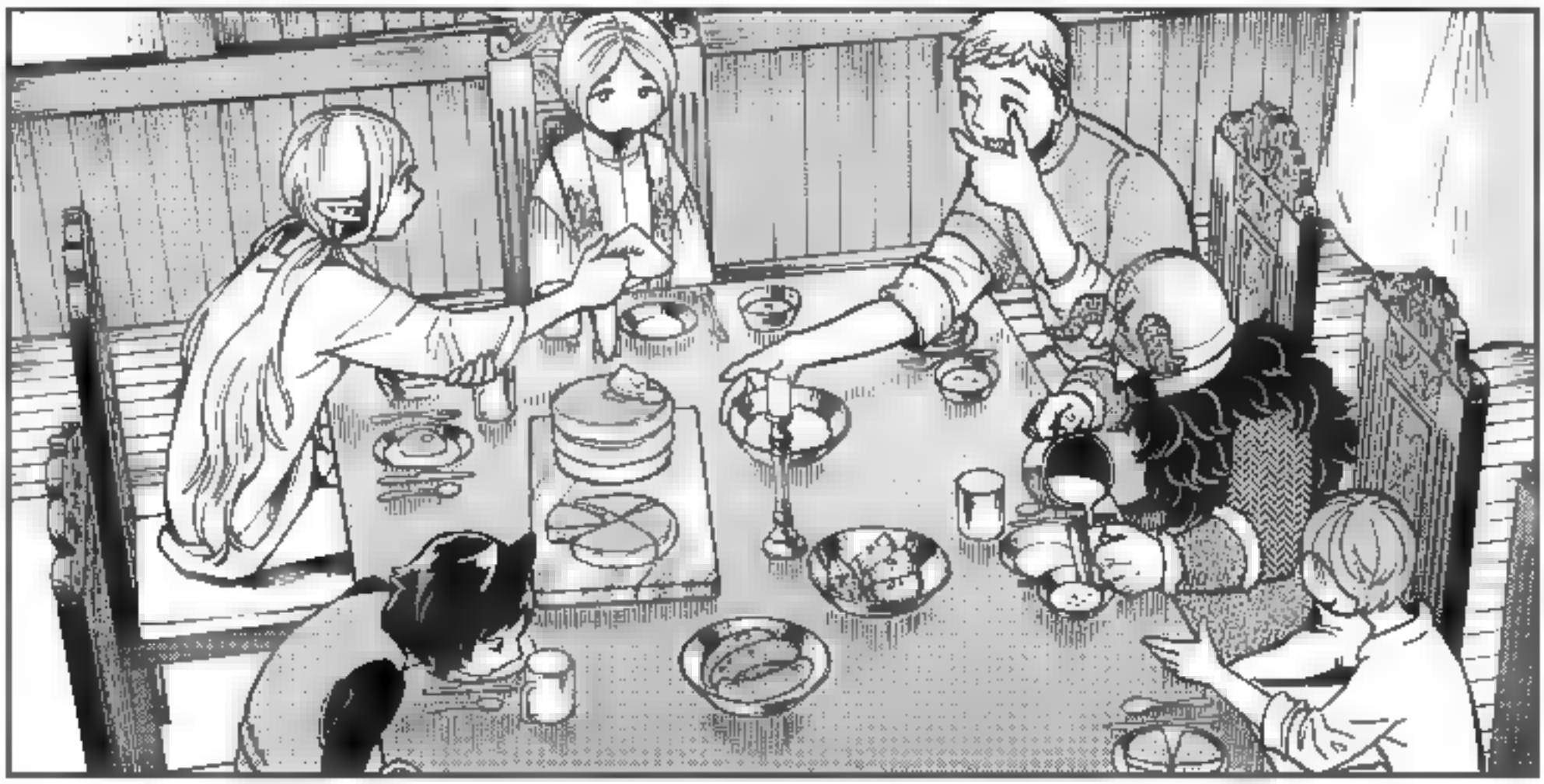
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
POFUN (PLOMP)

YES, HE IS.
SENSHI'S INCREDI-BLE!

JUST FINISHED.
SENSHI IS A VERY GOOD COOK.

HEY, LAIOS. YOU'RE AWAKE, HM?
GOOD MORNING.
YOU MADE BREAK-FAST?


THE BREAKFAST SENSHI MADE
(PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, PUMPKIN SOUP, SCRAMBLED EGGS)
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM



YAAD. WANT TO TRY SOME?

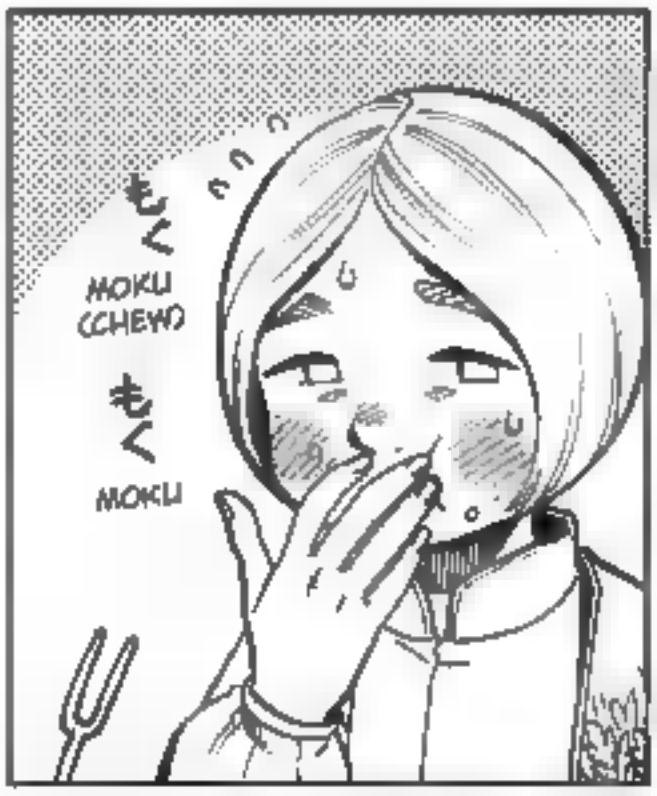
MMM... YUMMY...

AAAH...

NURI
ぬり
NURI
(SLATHER)
ぬり

BUT I CAN'T TASTE...
KIKO
(SLIT)
キコ
キコ
KIKO

HERE.

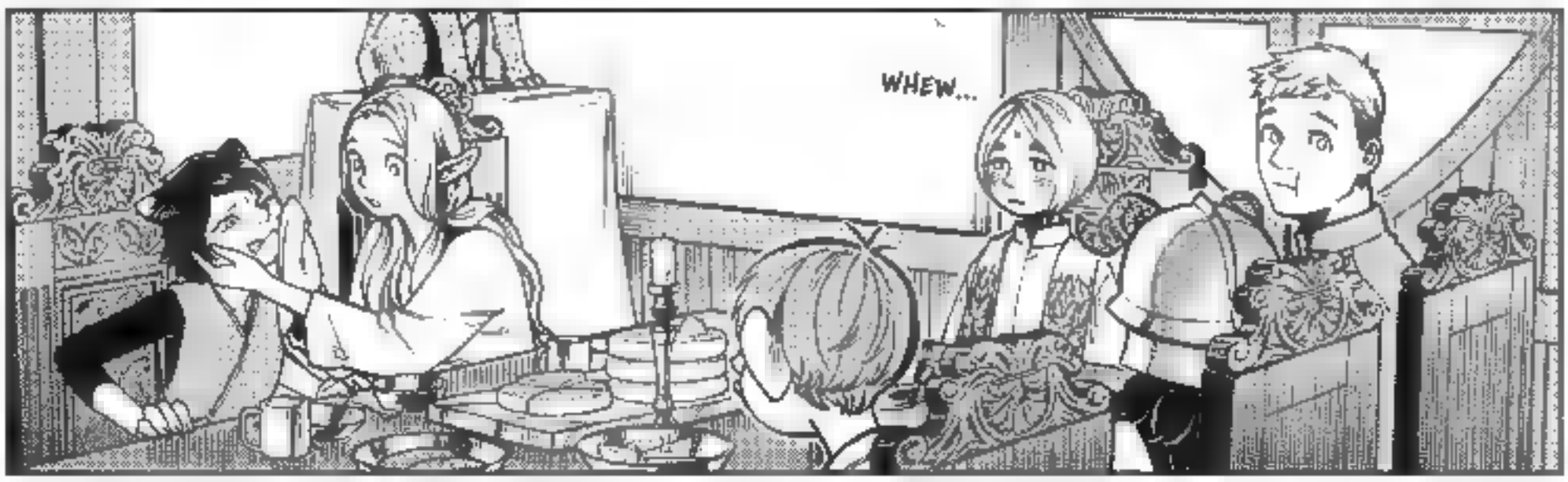

もく
MOKU
(CHEW)
もく
MOKU

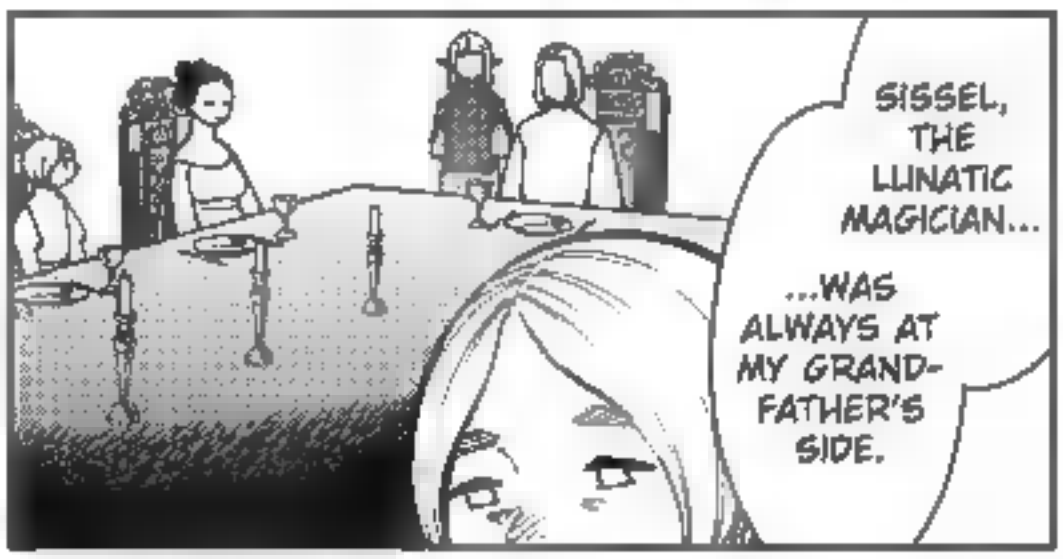
MMF!

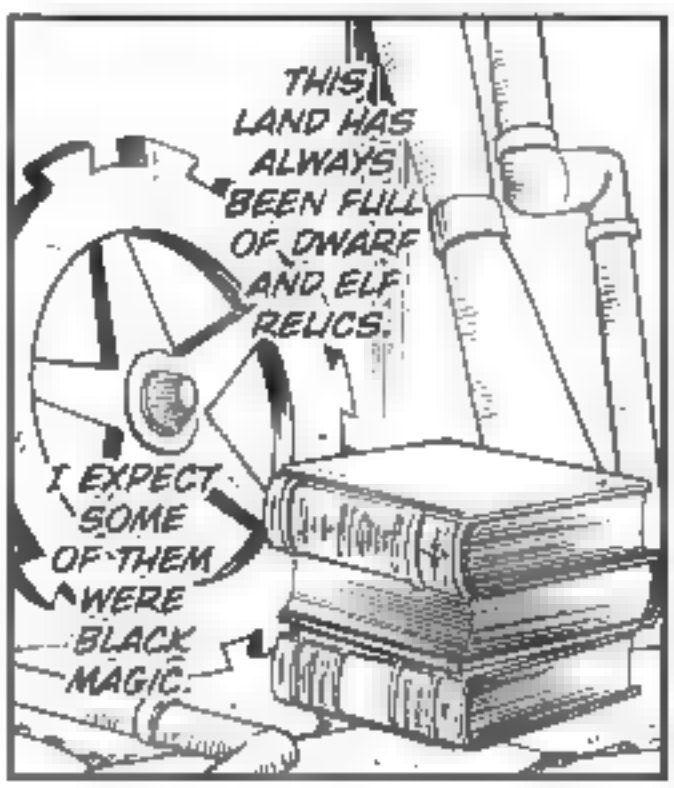
IF YOU DON'T EXERCISE IT, IT WITHERS.
YOUR SENSE OF TASTE IS LIKE A MUSCLE.

START BY ENJOYING TEXTURE.
YOUR SENSES OF SIGHT AND TOUCH SEEM TO WORK.
ENJOYING...
ALL RIGHT...

モゴ
MOGO
モゴ
MOGO
ONMCHD
...IT'S WARM AND SOFT.







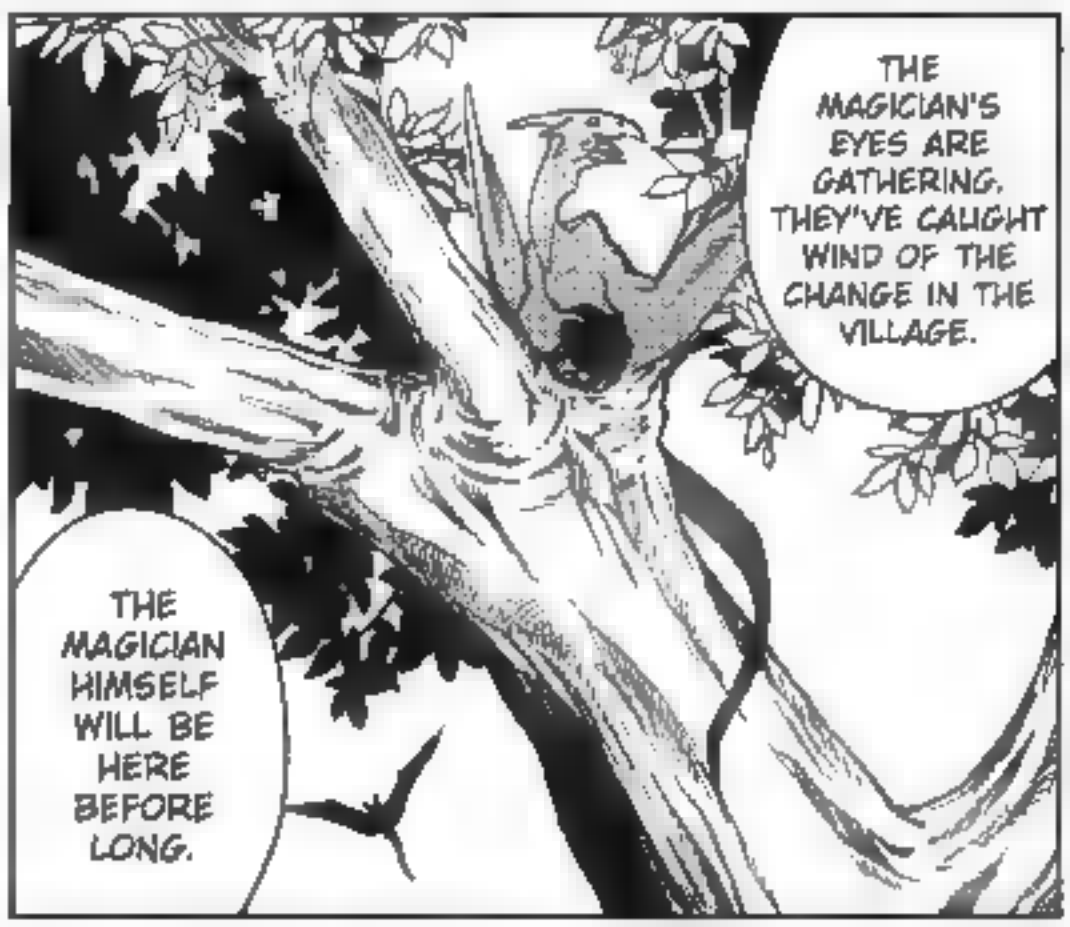
OBSESSED WITH POWER, SISSEL BEGAN TO GO MAD...

...AND IN THE END, HE CAST A SPELL OF IMMORTALITY OVER THE KINGDOM.

WE HAD A HARD TIME HELPING MY GRANDFATHER STEAL AWAY.
SOME WERE EXECUTED ON SUSPICION OF ASSISTING.

THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE.
HE ISN'T THE SORT YOU CAN HAVE A PROPER DISCUSSION WITH.

ACTUALLY, WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO HER—UH, HIM.
GRK!
WHERE CAN WE MEET HIM?
TALK !?


THE MAGICIAN'S EYES ARE GATHERING. THEY'VE CAUGHT WIND OF THE CHANGE IN THE VILLAGE.
THE MAGICIAN HIMSELF WILL BE HERE BEFORE LONG.

HAAAH...

...JUST MEETING HIM IS SIMPLE.
LOOK OUTSIDE.

...GET HELP FROM THE WINGED [redacted] TRAPPED [redacted] THE DEPTHS OF THE DUNGEON.
IT SHOULD [redacted] POSSIBLE TO CURB THE MAGICIAN'S POWER THEN.

BUT WE REALLY NEED TO DO THIS.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK, BUT...

THE DUNGEON IS LIKE HIS HANDS AND FEET.
YOU KNOW HOW TERRIBLE ITS POWER IS.

THAT IS TO SAY, IT WILL RETURN YOU TO THE DUNGEON.

THIS PASSAGE WILL TAKE YOU INSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS.

KOSO (SNEAK)

KOSO

YOU'LL BE TAKEN BACK IN THE SAME WAY YOU ARRIVED.

GEH.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

GIVING THEM TOO MUCH WILL MAKE IT HARD FOR THOSE WHO CARRY THEM.

THOSE WHO CARRY ...?

THESE TOO!

THESE TOO!

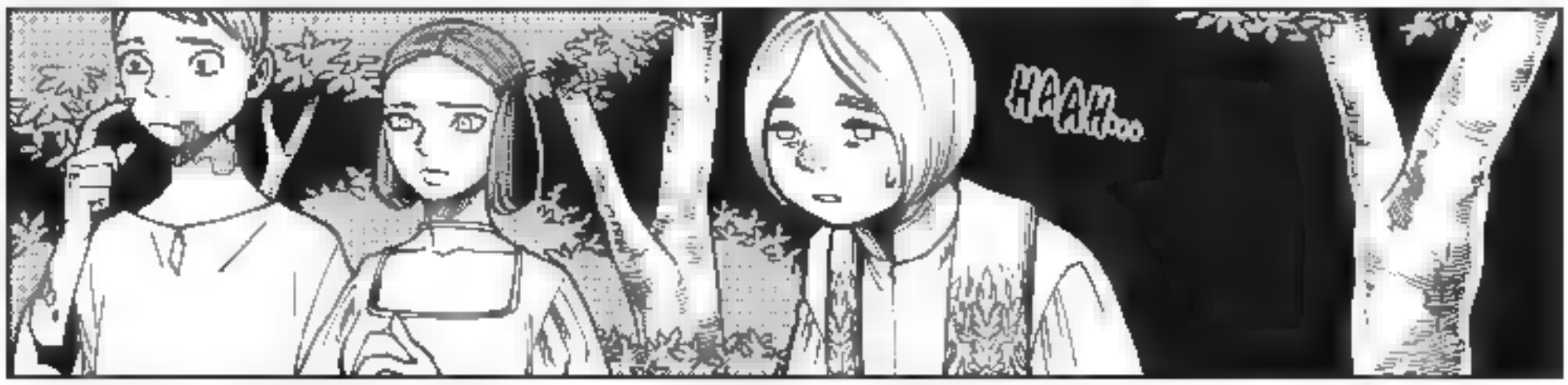
TAKE THESE WITH YOU, PLEASE!

AH, THANK YOU.

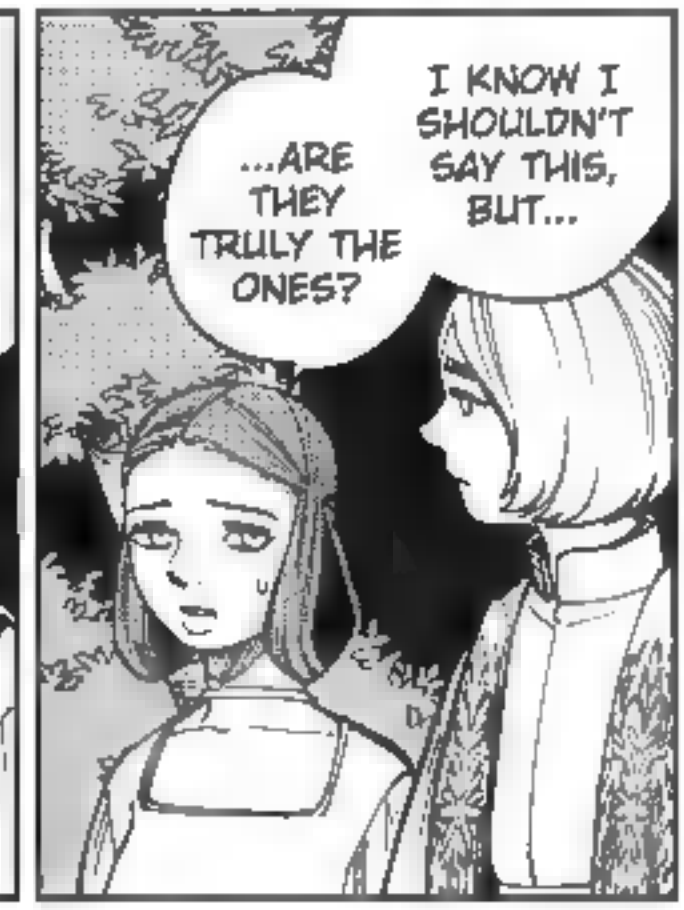
DWAAH...

THANK YOU. WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT.

MAY FORTUNE BE YOUR ALLY...


HAAH...

I'D LIKE TO THINK SO...

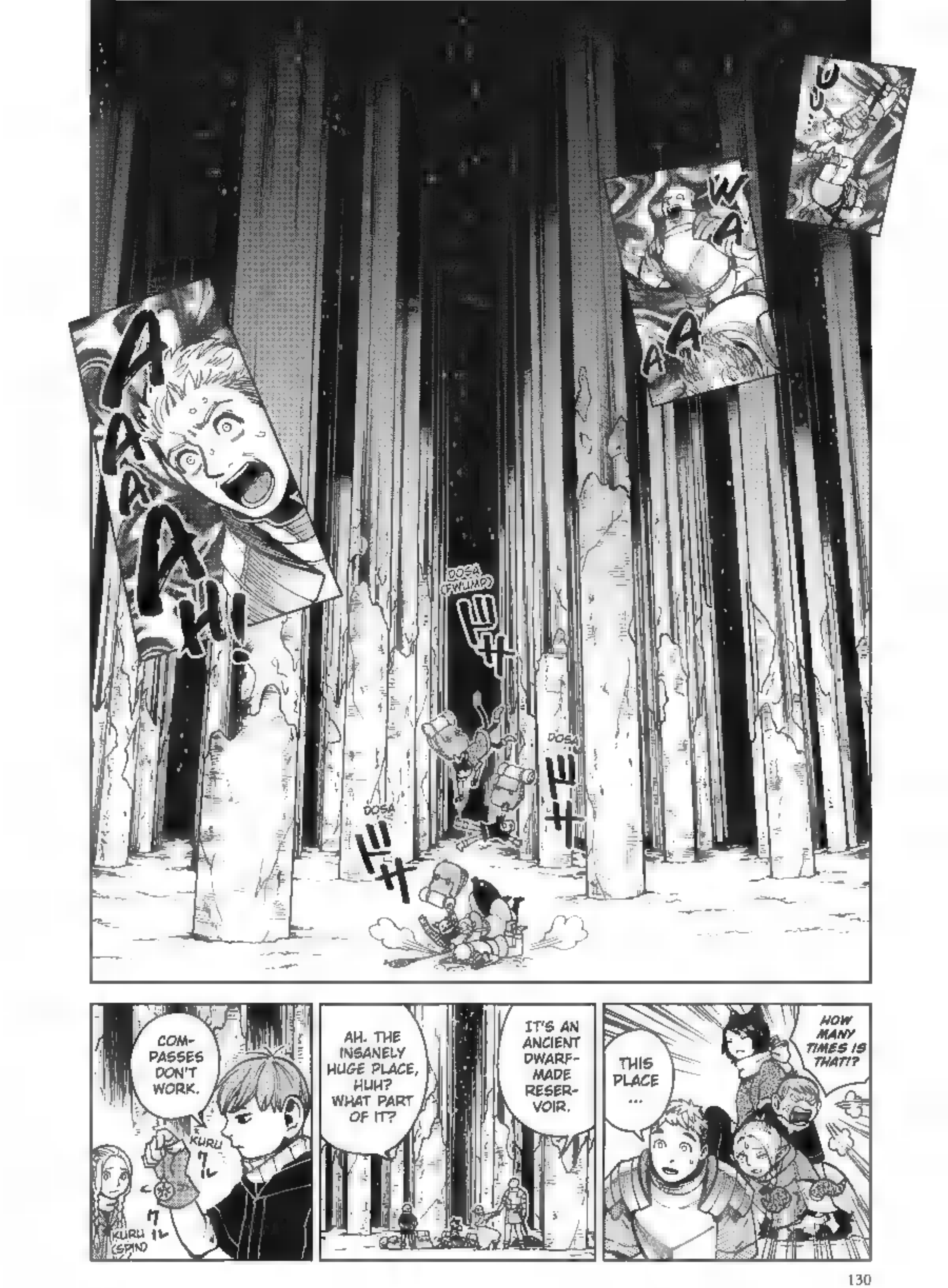

...ARE THEY TRULY THE ONES?
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, BUT...

ZOKU (SHUDDER)
ZUU (LOOM)

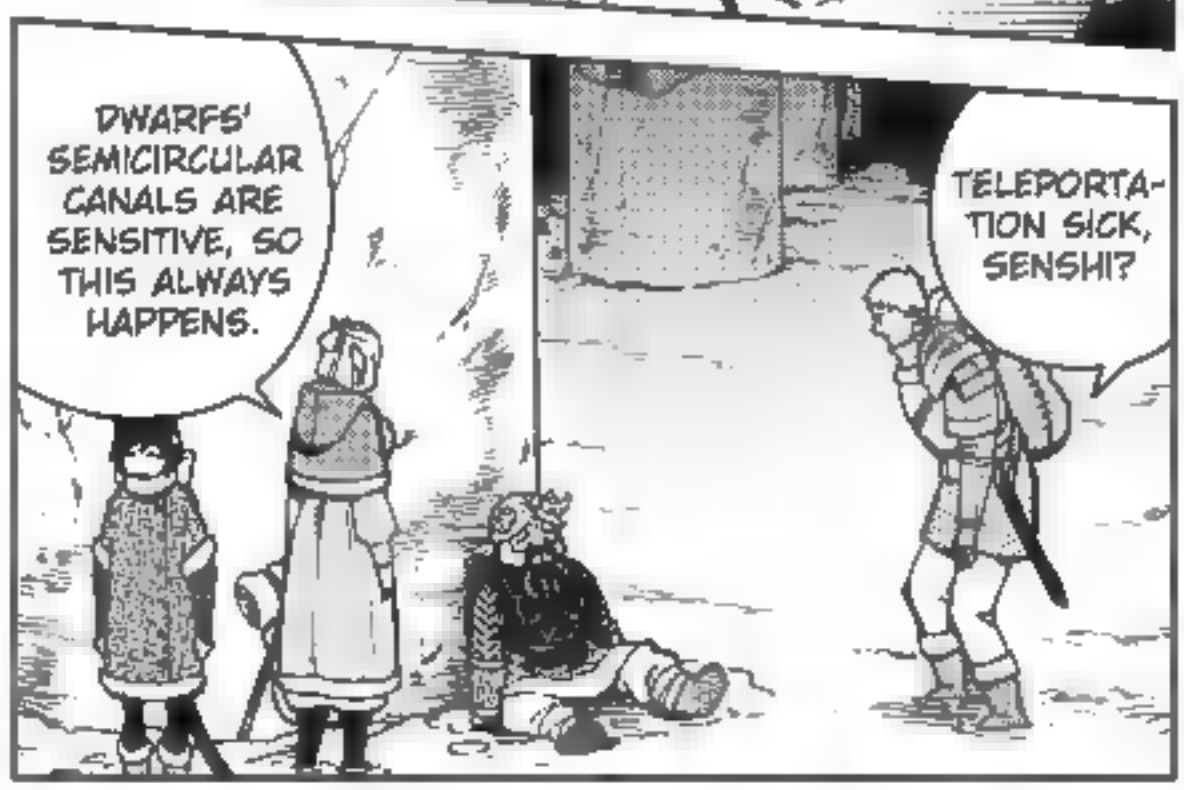
WHO...
...WERE YOU TALKING TO, JUST NOW?

SI-
SISSEL ...

YAAD.


AAAAAA!!
WAAA
DOSA (FWUMP)
DOSA
DOSA
COM-PASSES DON'T WORK.
KURU
KURU (SPIN)
AH. THE INSANELY HUGE PLACE, HUH? WHAT PART OF IT?
IT'S AN ANCIENT DWARF-MADE RESER-VOIR.
THIS PLACE ...
HOW MANY TIMES IS THAT!?

BLARGH.
CHIRA (GLANCE)
DWARFS...


DWARFS' SEMICIRCULAR CANALS ARE SENSITIVE, SO THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS.
TELEPORTATION SICK, SENSHI?

DWARFS DO NASTY STUFF LIKE THIS, DON'T THEY?
I HEAR IT'S THE REMAINS OF A DEFENSIVE POST TOO.
HEY, THERE'S STILL GOLD LEFT ON THIS.

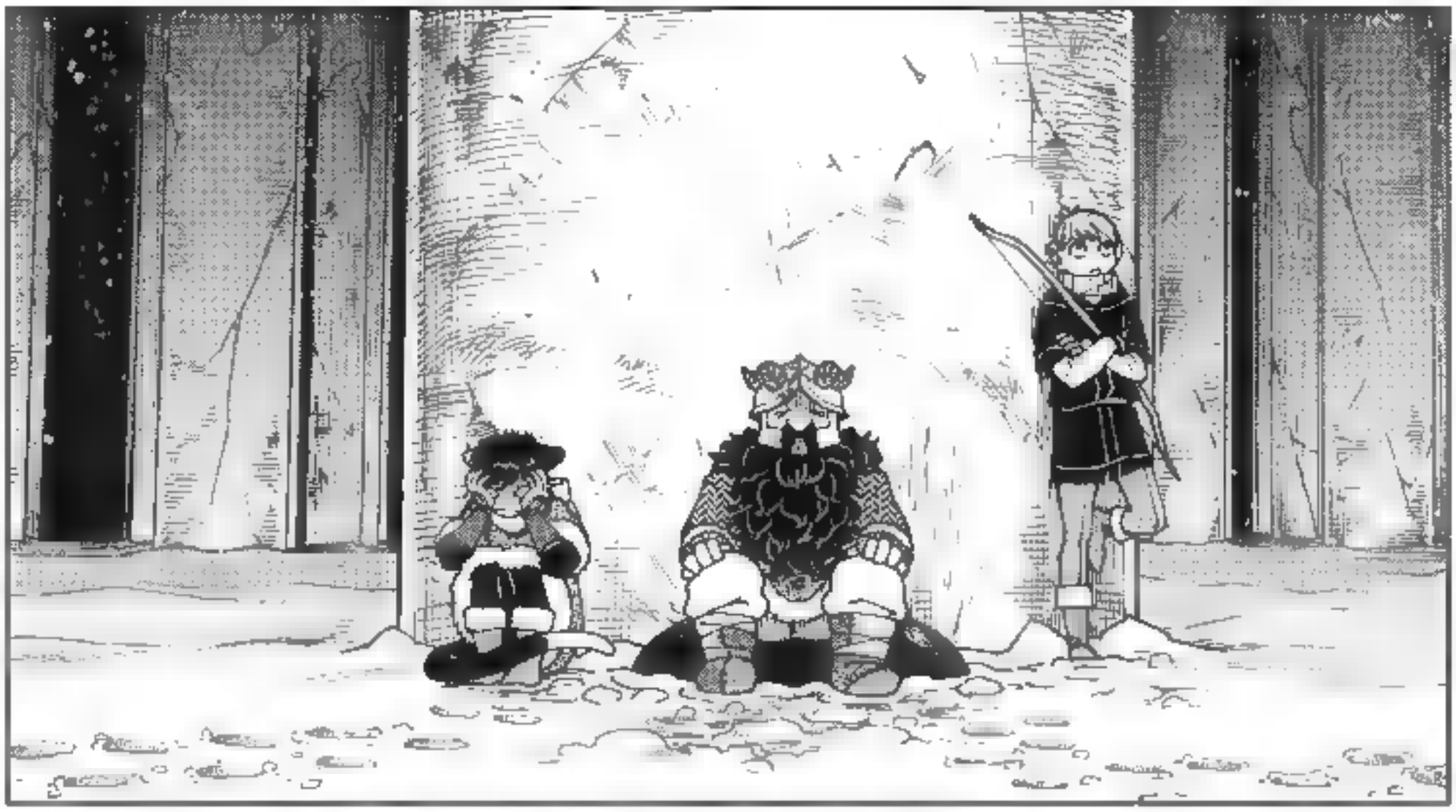
WHERE AM I?

I'D THINK THEY'D GET MANA SICKNESS AS WELL.
DO GNOMES GET IT EASILY TOO?

REST THERE FOR A BIT.
ARE YOU OKAY?
WE'RE GOING TO GO LOOK AROUND.

PET ME MOOORE.

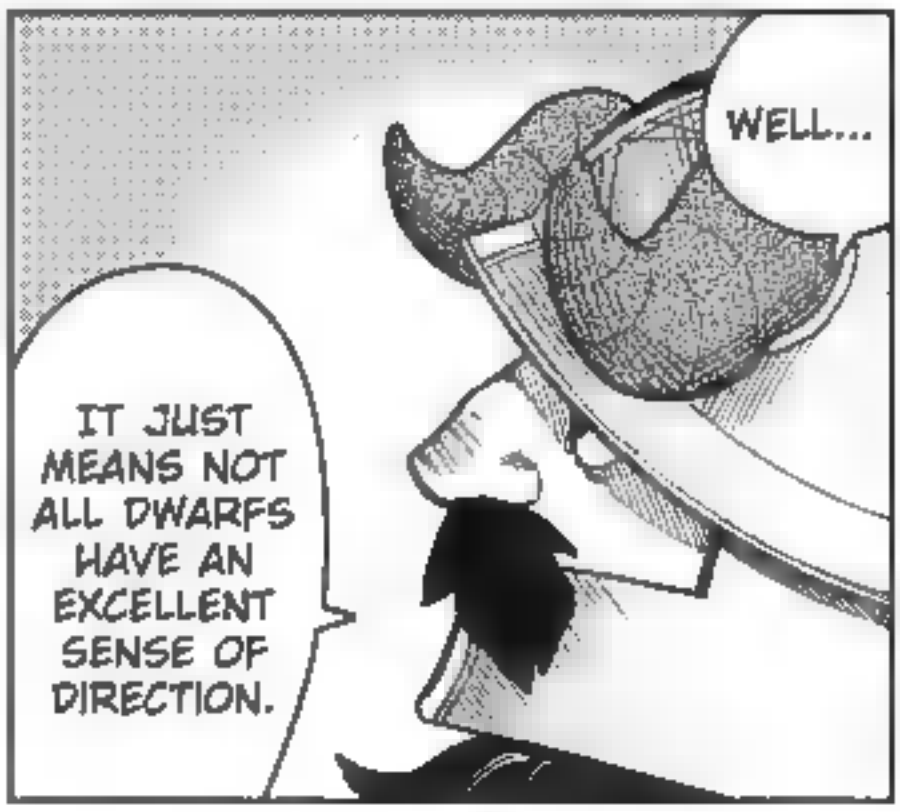
OH. ARE YOU BACK?
HUH?
WH-WHA...?



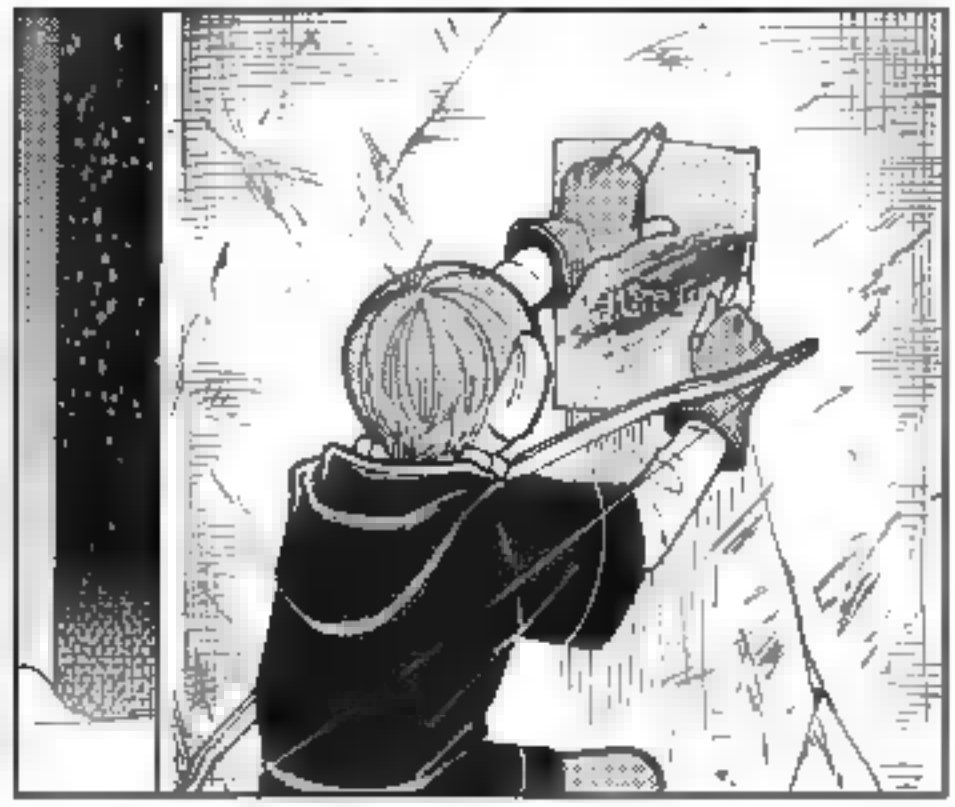
THEY'LL TELL US OUR ROUGH LOCATION.
I'D LIKE YOU TO GO RECORD THE SYMBOLS THE COLUMNS AROUND US.

MM? YEAH.
THERE IS SOMETHING THERE, HUH?

CHIL.
CAN YOU SEE THIS MARK HERE?


WELL...
IT JUST MEANS NOT ALL DWARFS HAVE AN EXCELLENT SENSE OF DIRECTION.

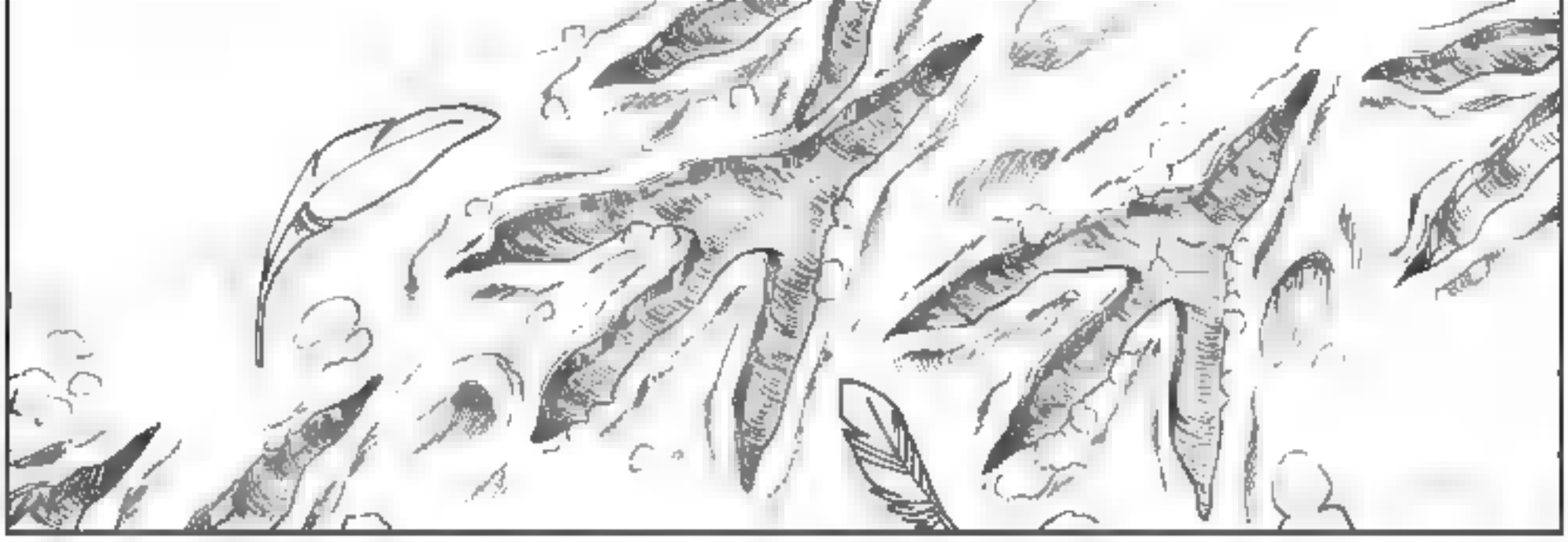
THESE PLACES ALWAYS HAVE THEM.
THEY'RE LIKE A CODE.
...HOW DO YOU KNOW A THING LIKE THAT?

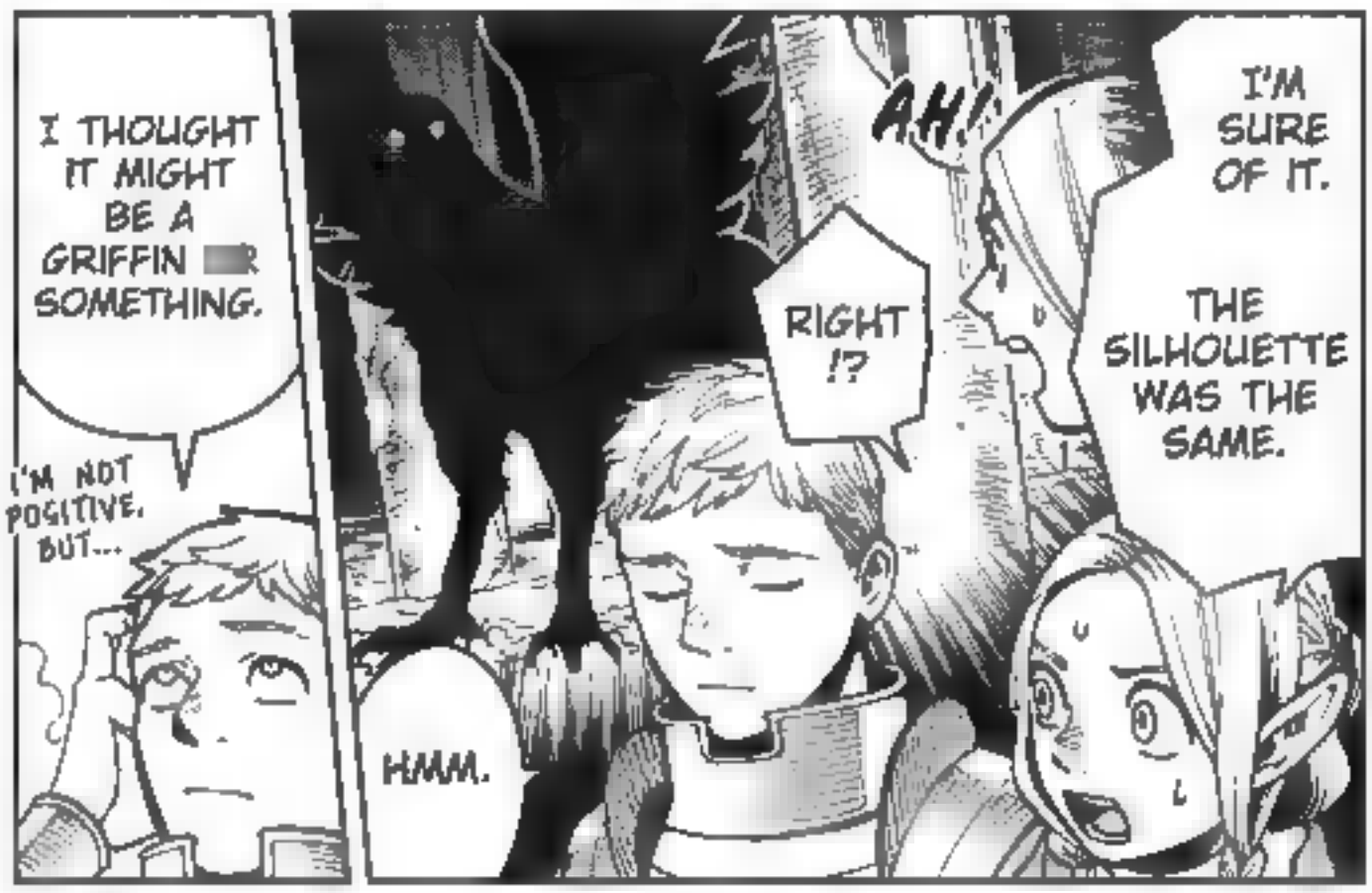


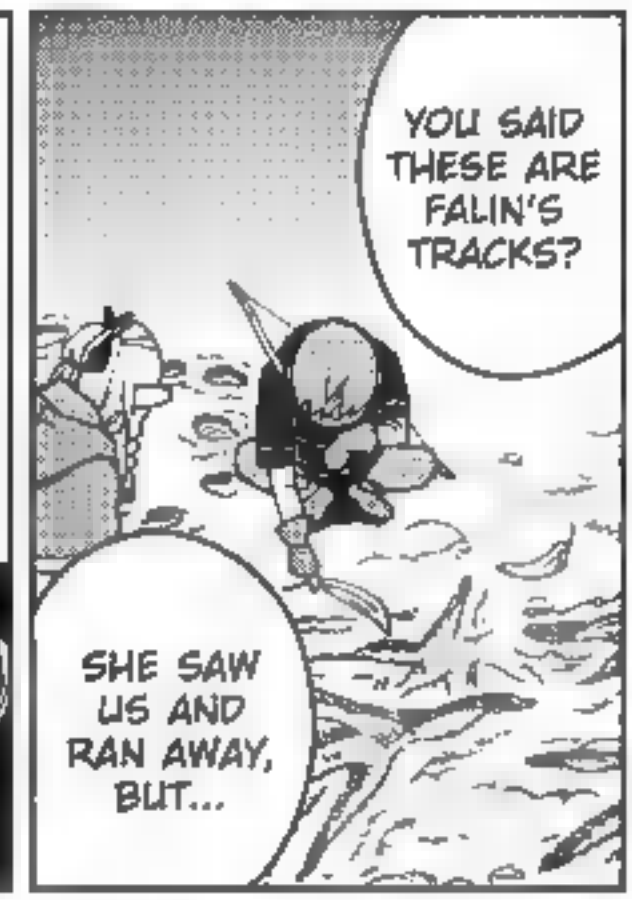
HM. THEY'RE BACK.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE SOUTH-EAST...
I'VE GOT IT.

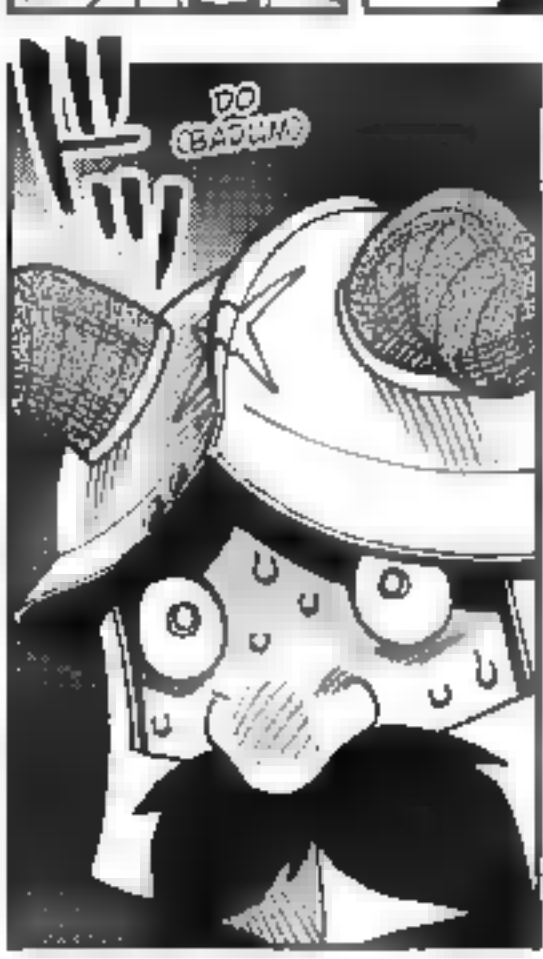
WE MAY HAVE FOUND FALIN!

SENSHI FIGURED OUT WHERE WE—
THAT WAS A WASTED TRIP.
BIG NEWS! BIG NEWS!!




I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GRIFFIN [redacted] SOMETHING.
I'M NOT POSITIVE, BUT...
HMM.
AH!
RIGHT !?
I'M SURE OF IT.
THE SILHOUETTE WAS THE SAME.


YOU SAID THESE ARE FALIN'S TRACKS?
SHE SAW US AND RAN AWAY, BUT...


DO (BADUM)

FALIN
GRIFFIN
IT'S A MONSTER THAT'S HALF BIRD, HALF LION.
AND GRIFFINS ARE...?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF GRIFFINS APPEARING [redacted] THIS DUNGEON.

...!?

ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY AND LOOK FOR HER...

IT SMELLS LIKE ANIMAL.
KUN
KUN (SNIFF)
KUN
DO I LOOK LIKE A DOG?
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE SCENT?

HRM.
WELL, UH...
NO? WHY NOT?
BUT IT MIGHT BE FALIN.

NO.

I, ERM...
OH! THOSE.

WHY DO YOU HATE A MONSTER YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN?
I HATE GRIFFINS.

I'VE SEEN THOSE BEFORE. THEY'RE TOXIC OR SOMETHING.
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T EAT THEM.
MUSH-ROOMS ??
I WANT TO COOK THEM.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE MUSH-ROOMS.

UP!
HUH!?
W-WAIT.
DON'T DO IT.
HISHI (CLING)
ENOUGH! LET'S GO!

BO
(BOOM!)
GU
(TENSE)

BA (LEAD)

THAT'S SO COOL!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BE-FORE!

A GRIFFIN...

.....

I KNEW IT! IT'S A GRIFFIN!

GIRI (GRIT)

ALL THAT FUSS FOR NOTHING !?

WHY, YOU...

TON (TMP)
HERE IT COMES AGAIN!
GET BACK!
YEEK!!
BA (DASH)
YEEK!
YEEK!
YEEK!
YEEK!

RGH!
MY AIM IS...
SEN-SHI!?
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON IT AND RUN!!

DWAAAH!!
SENSHI!!

OUR HOMETOWN IS FARTHER NORTH, ACROSS THE SEA. IT'S A BORING PLACE WITH NOTHING BUT MOUNTAINS AND [illegible]

EVERYONE COMES TO THE ISLAND THROUGH THIS NEIGHBORING TOWN. IT'S THE BIGGEST ONE IN THE AREA. THE MAGIC SCHOOL FALIN AND I WENT TO IS THERE TOO.

[illegible] DUNGEON CLUSTER
- DWARF-STYLE DUNGEONS
- CAPTURED
- CURRENTLY PART OF [illegible] TOWN, AND ONLY TRIGGER [illegible]

THE ISLAND
-COMPOUND-TYPE DUNGEON
-DISCOVERED IN 507

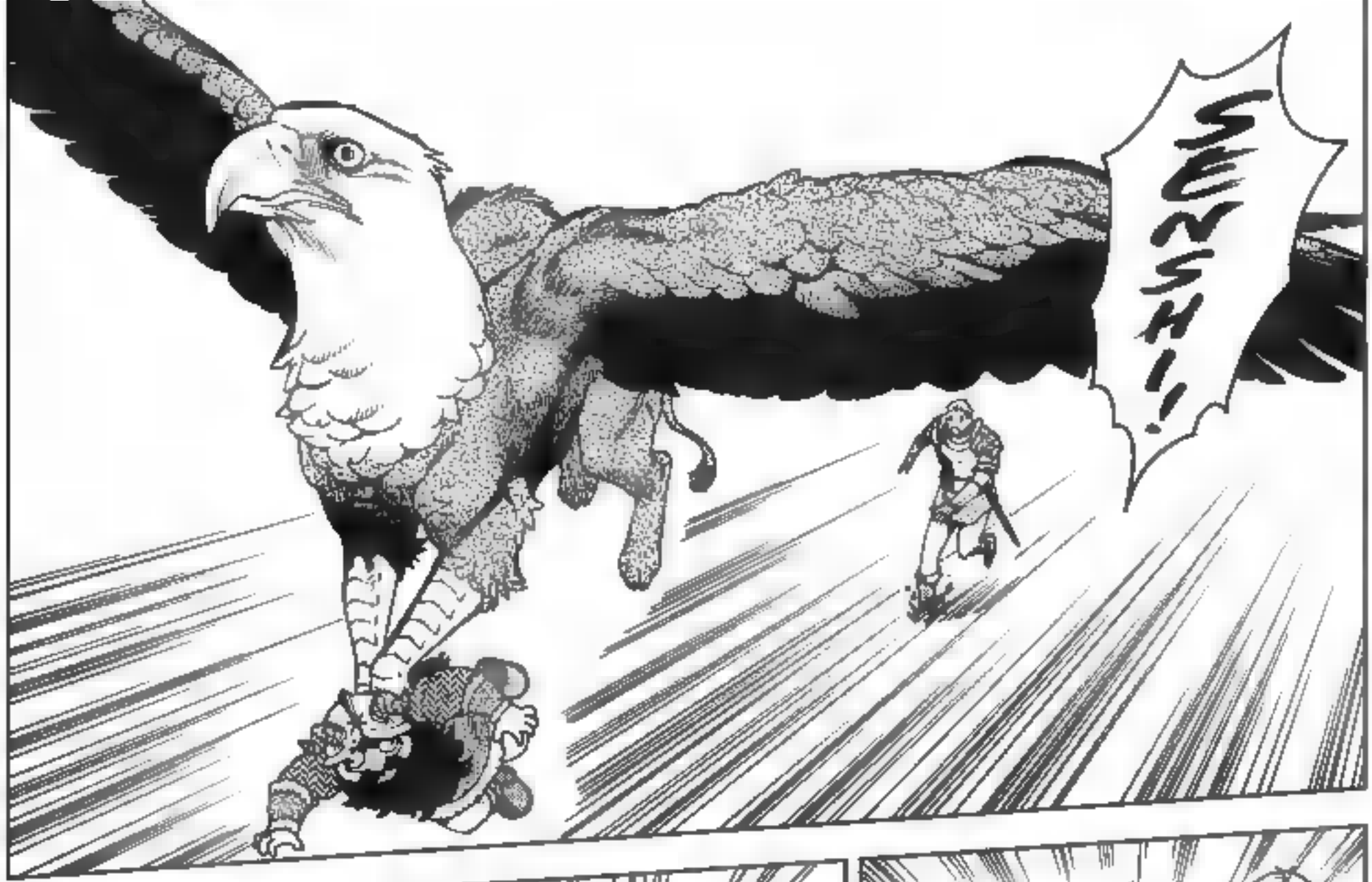
FROM A CITY ON THE CONTINENT THAT LIES NORTHWEST OF HERE. OF THE HUMAN RACES THERE, 80% ARE ELVES. 20% ARE [illegible]

UTAYA IS... WAS FAR TO THE EAST OF HERE. HUMANS AND DEMIHUMANS ARE STILL FIGHTING OVER THE TERRITORY.

KURO

THE EASTERN ISLANDS ARE SCATTERED TO THE SOUTHEAST OF HERE. THERE AREN'T MANY LONG-LIVED RACES, AND THERE'S CONSTANT INTERNAL STRIFE AND WARS BETWEEN ISLANDS.

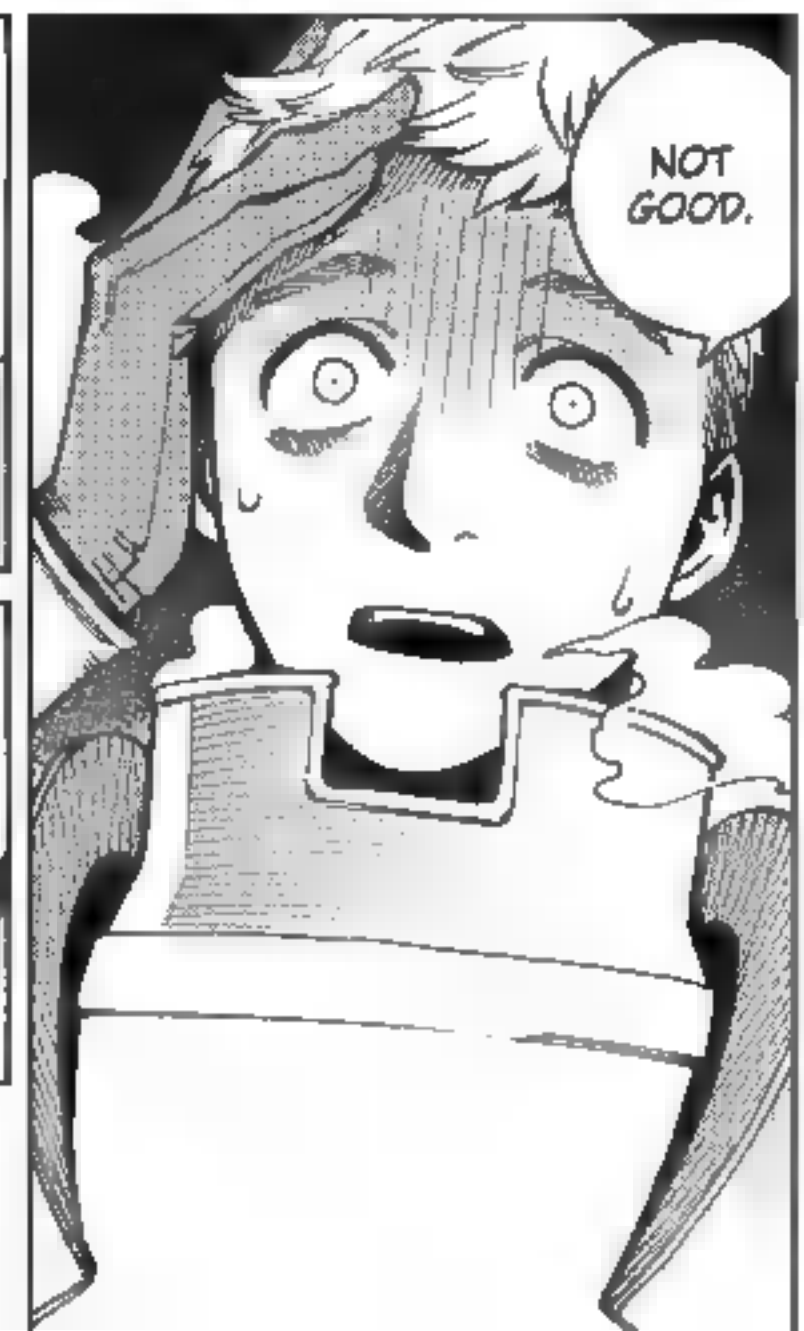
TOWER OF NIGHT CRIES
- GNOME-STYLE DUNGEON
- CAPTURED AND BEING SEALED
- CURRENTLY ADMINISTERED BY THE [illegible]


SHURUN!!

W-
WAI-

DID SENSHI HAVE A WEAPON WITH HIM!?
IT HAPPENED SO FAST I COULDN'T DO A THING.

WE HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM, NOW.
NO. HE'S UN-ARMED.


NOT GOOD.

GOOOO WHOOO
ゴゴゴ
ゴ……ゴ
ゴゴゴ

MARCILLE, ISN'T THERE ANY WAY!?

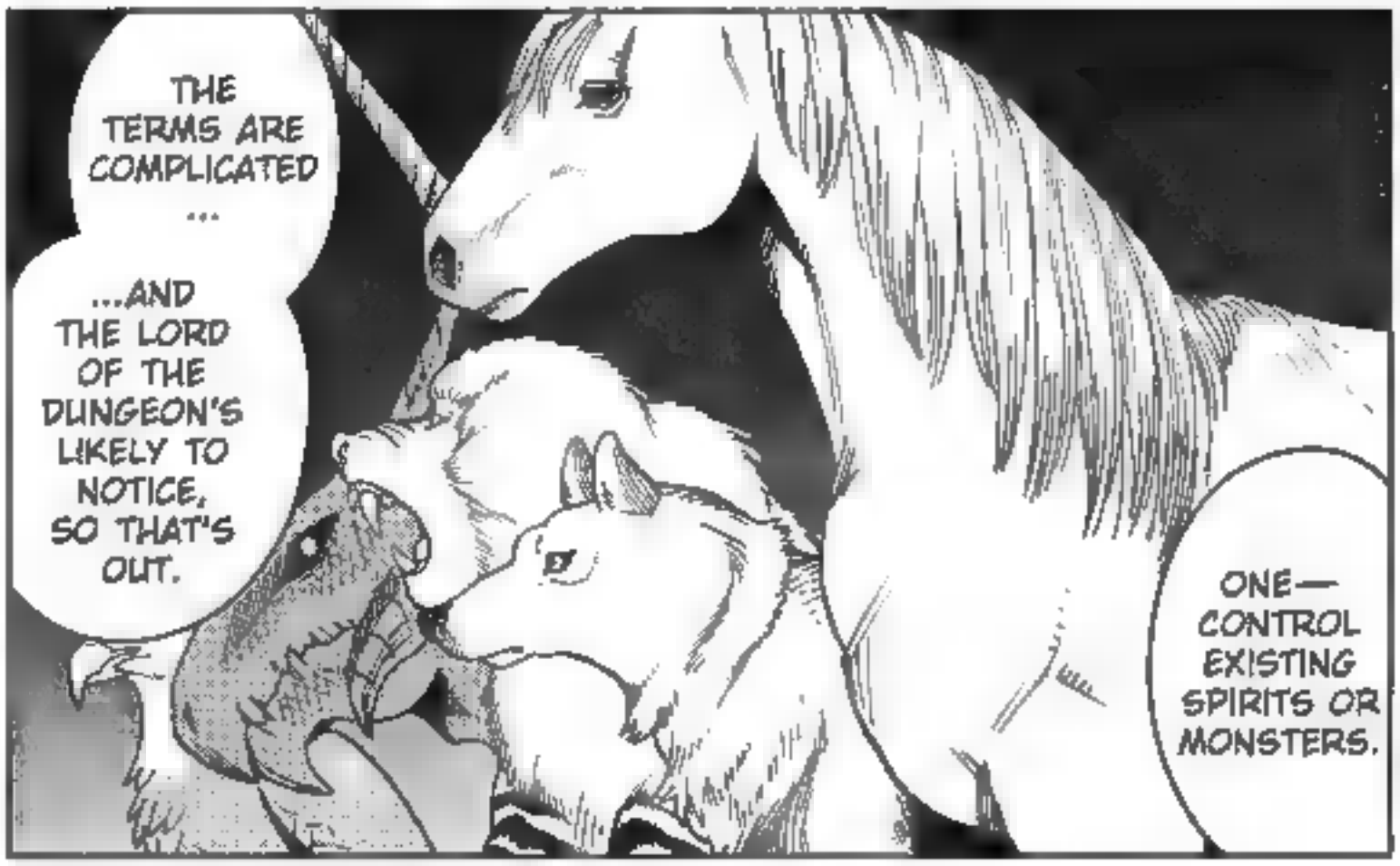
IF HE TOOK HIM SOMEPLACE HIGH, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING.
UNARMED.
JUST LIKE THAT, IN AN INSTANT.
WE'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
WE WON'T EVEN FIND HIS CORPSE.

...SHOULD WE CLIMB EVERY PILLAR TO LOOK FOR HIM?
I'M NOT DOING IT.

FAMILIARS? YOU'RE SUMMONING MONSTERS?
IT'S MORE LIKE "MAKING" THAN "SUMMONING."

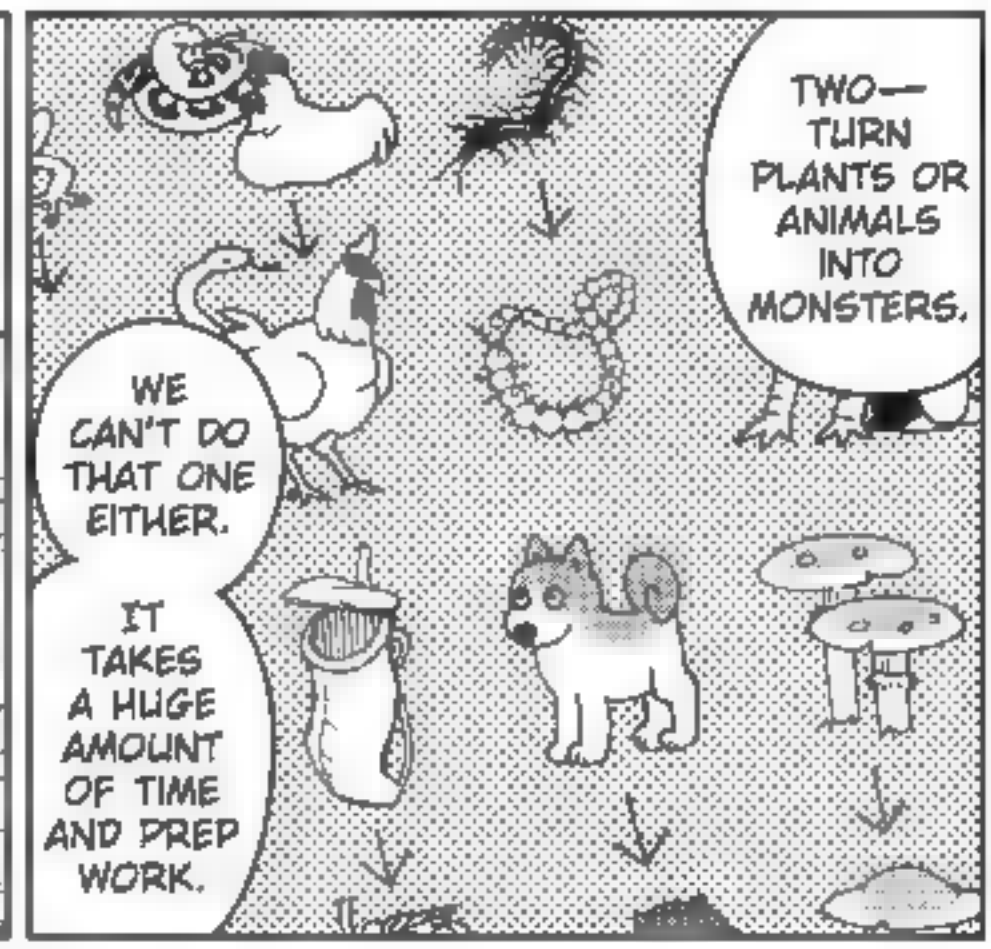
UMMM...
UMMMM...
UMMMM...

I'LL SEARCH WITH FAMILIARS.


THE TERMS ARE COMPLICATED ...
...AND THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON'S LIKELY TO NOTICE, SO THAT'S OUT.
ONE— CONTROL EXISTING SPIRITS OR MONSTERS.

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF SUMMON-ING.

WE'LL DO THAT THIS TIME.
THREE— MAKE THEM FROM SCRATCH.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE HARDEST ONE.
TOSU (SHUNK)

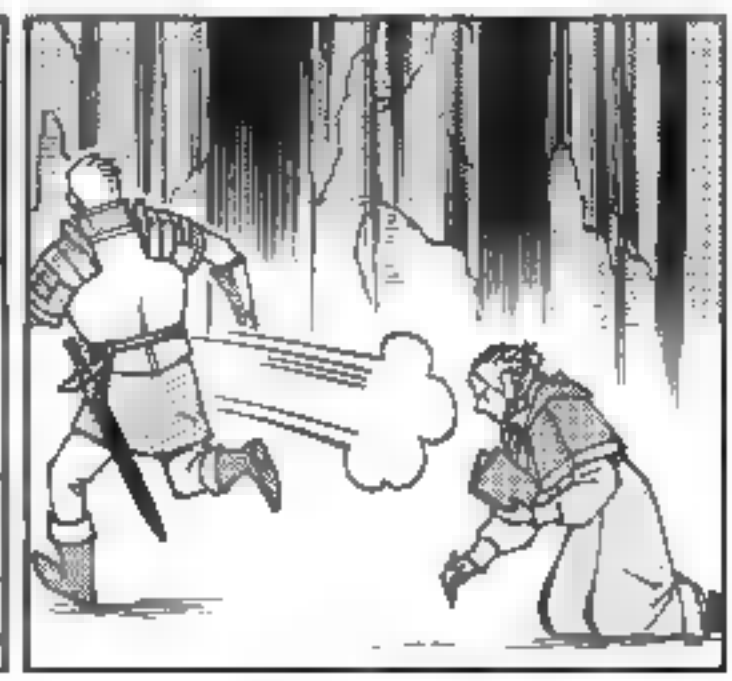

TWO— TURN PLANTS OR ANIMALS INTO MONSTERS.
WE CAN'T DO THAT ONE EITHER.
IT TAKES A HUGE AMOUNT OF TIME AND PREP WORK.

I'LL GET THE MAGIC CIRCLE READY.
GO PUT ALL THE MEAT WE HAVE INTO THE POT.

BUTSU (SNIP)

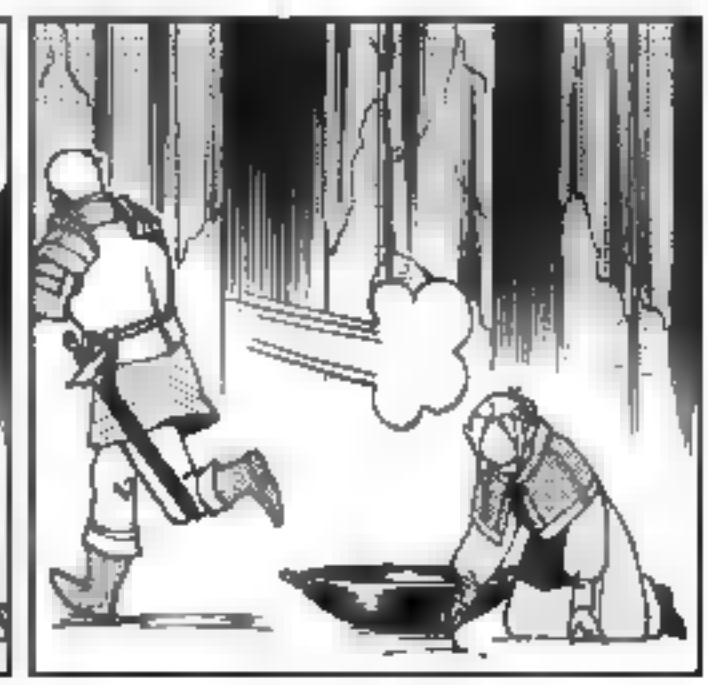
IT IS IF YOU'RE MAKING WHOLLY INDE-PENDENT CREA-TURES...
...BUT WE JUST NEED THESE TO MOVE A LITTLE.

IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE...
THAT'S ALL?

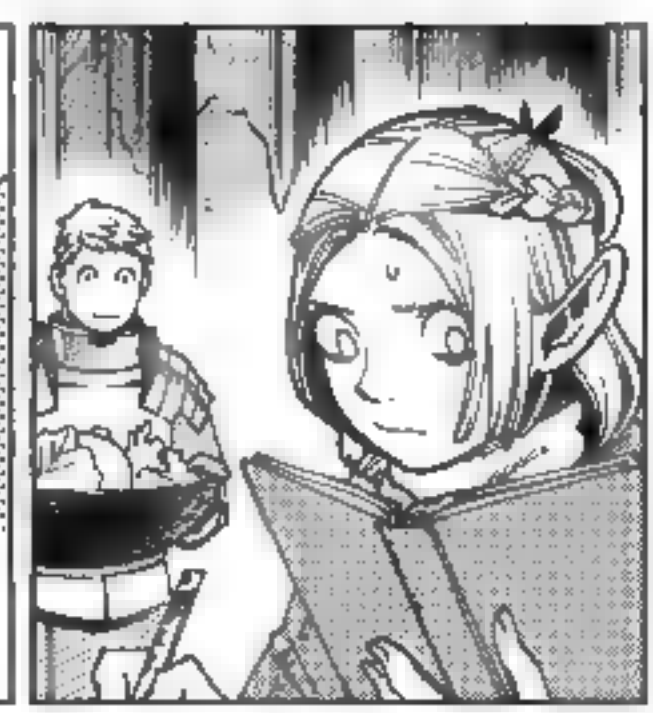


GO PUT THEM IN.
HMM... THEY'LL BOOST THE CALORIE COUNT, AT LEAST.

ALSO VEGGIES.
THERE WASN'T ANY.
WE'VE GOT CHEESE AND EGGS, THOUGH.



YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT?
SOWA SOWA
TEACH ME TOO—
.....
WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU MAKING?
SOWA (FIDGET)



SO THAT'S A THING, HUH?

TAKE THE PROPER STEPS AND GET YOURSELF CERTIFIED TO HANDLE DANGEROUS MAGIC FIRST!!
NO!

WHAT'S HIS OBSESSION WITH FOOD ABOUT?
HOW'D HE JOIN YOUR GROUP?
.....

HEY.
WHAT IS THAT OLD GUY ANYWAY?

BUT...

WE JUST HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE, I GUESS.
NONE OF US WANTS TO TALK ABOUT OUR PRIVATE LIVES.

HUH !?
WAIT— DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW!
AFTER YOU ACTED SO CHUMMY !?

TEN YEARS!
HAS IT EVEN BEEN HERE THAT LONG?
REMEMBER WHAT HE SAID BACK WHEN WE MET HIM?
ABOUT HOW HE'D BEEN COOKING MONSTERS HERE FOR OVER A DECADE?
BUT THEY ONLY DISCOVERED THE DUNGEON SIX YEARS AGO.
THAT'S, UH...

...IF I SAID I WASN'T CURIOUS, I'D BE LYING.
LOTS OF WHAT SENSHI DOES IS ODD.

...I THINK THAT LAST ONE'S A FALSE CHARGE.

NO.

DRYAD HAY FEVER SHOULDN'T HAPPEN THE FIRST TIME EITHER.

THE WAY HE'S ABNORMALLY SCARED OF MONSTERS ON A FLOOR HE CAN'T HAVE BEEN TO BEFORE.

ALSO ...

...THE WAY HE HAS POTS AND KNIVES MADE OF VALUABLE METALS.

AND HE INSISTS ON TREATING ME LIKE A KID.

THE FACT THAT HE READS AN ANCIENT DWARF CODE.

A CHILD...

BUT THAT'S ONLY IN A FEW REGIONS, LIKE THE EAST.

IF HE'S LIVED HERE FOR TEN YEARS, [redacted] SHOULD KNOW.

THEY DON'T REALIZE HALF-FOOTS ARE A RACE.

THEY ASSUME WE'LL TURN INTO TALL-MEN OR DWARFS WHEN WE GROW UP.

PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW US MAKE THAT MISTAKE A LOT.

I NOTICED WHEN—IZUTSUMI YANKED MY CHAIN ABOUT IT.

ONCE WE RESCUE HIM...

...LET'S ASK HIM TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF AGAIN.

HM...?

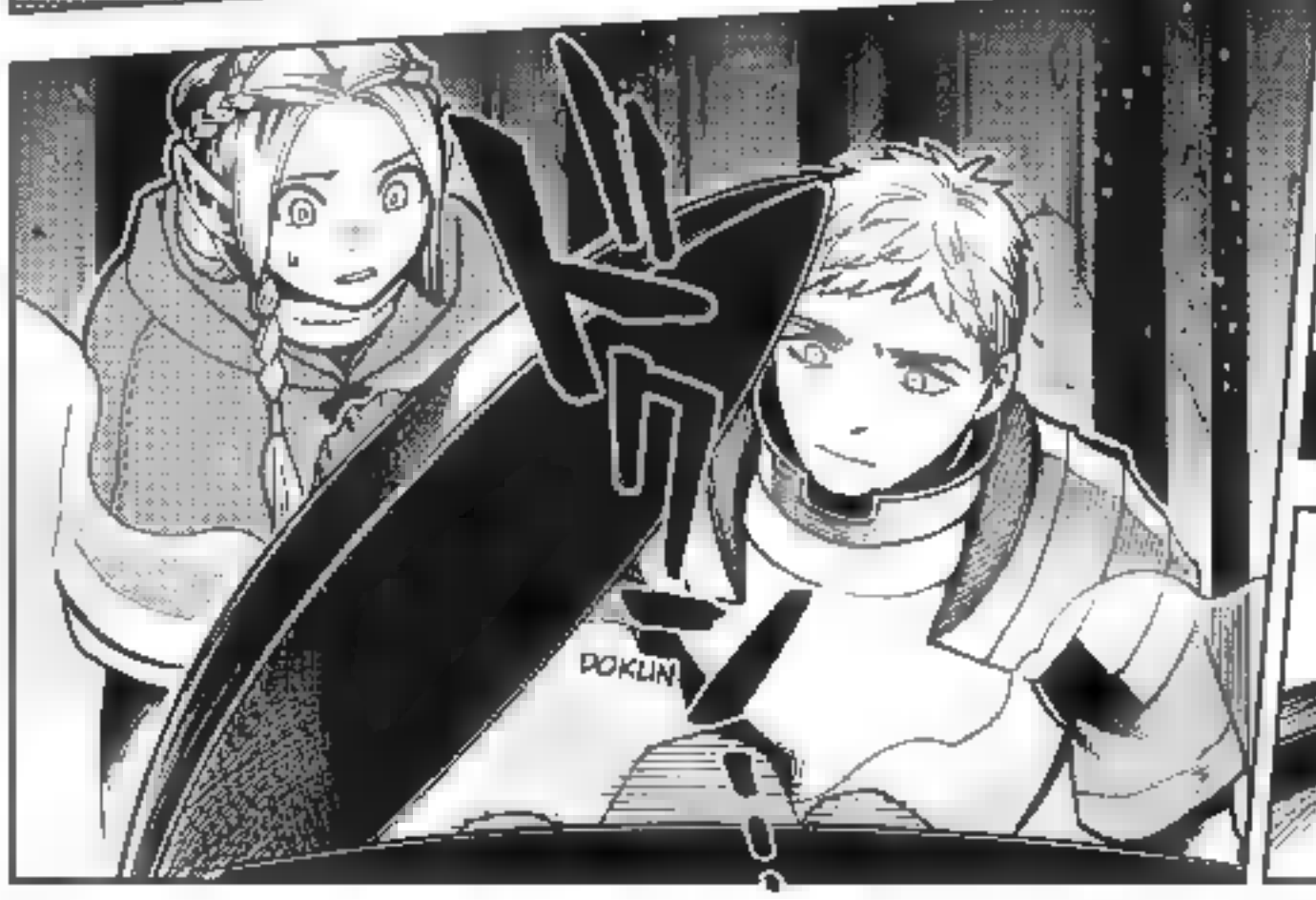
COULD SENSHI MAYBE...

...NOT BE FROM ABOVE-GR—

BOKO
(GLUP)
BOKO
WAH!
BOSHU
(BWOOSH)

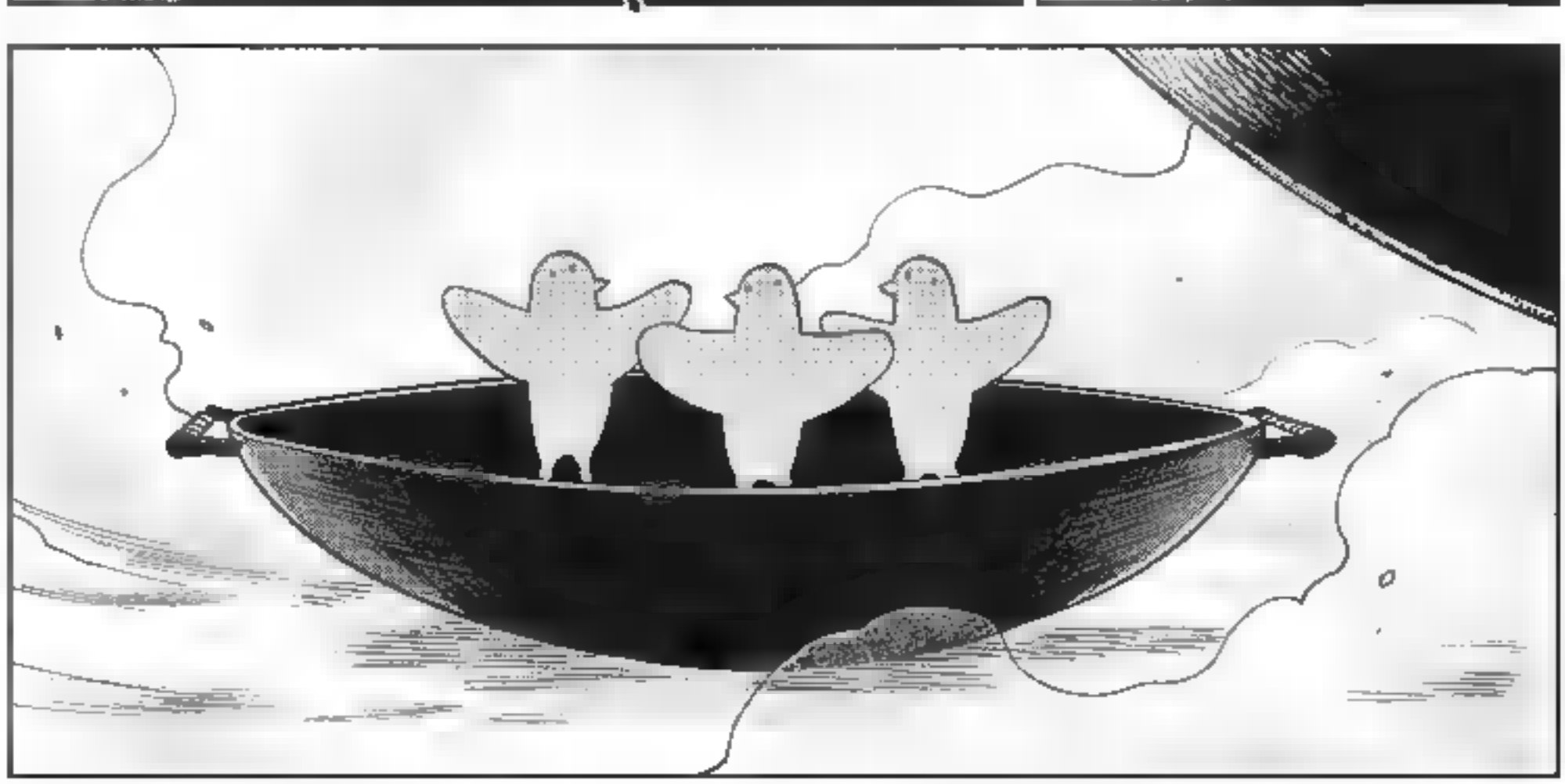
IS IT DONE?
IT SHOULD BE.
LET'S OPEN THE LID.

SHUU (HISSS)
SHUU

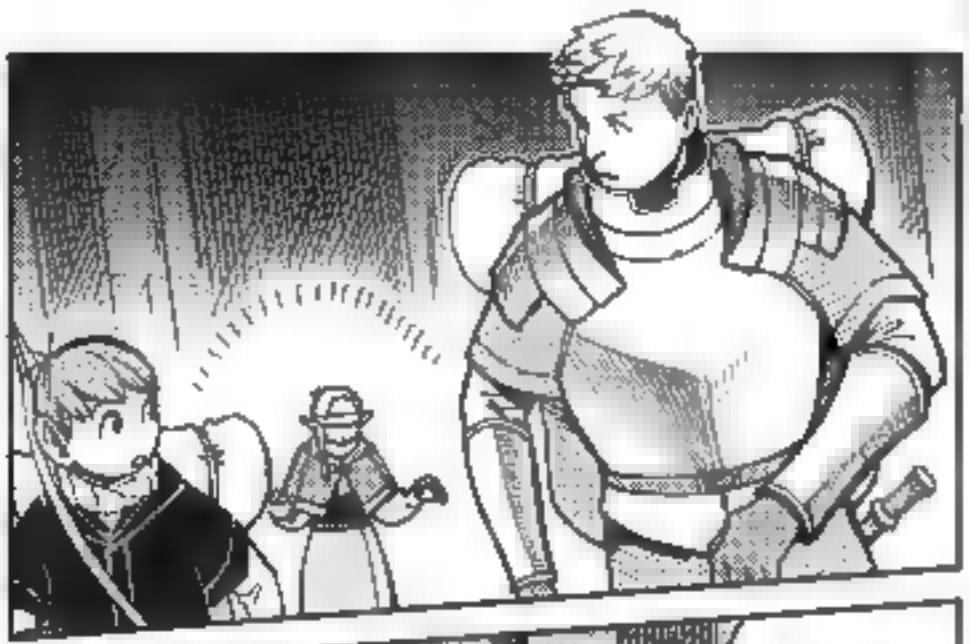

DOKUN

DOKUN (BADUMD

DOKUN



SFX: BUTSU (MUTTER) BUTSU



Y-YOU THINK I CAN WALK WHEN I'M FLYING !?
GAKU (TREMBLE)
GAKU
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH?

WE'LL LOOK FOR FOREIGN OBJECTS BY FOLLOWING THE DUNGEON CLEANERS AND SPIRITS.
FOLLOW "ME."
OK

BATA (KICK)
BATA
NO! I'LL FALL! I'LL FALL!!
AGH!
IF WE MOVE, I'LL REALLY FALL...

HUH? WHAT?
COME ON, MARCILLE.
I'M SCARED!
PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND HERE...

I'LL CARRY HER.
IZUTSUMI AND CHIL, CARRY MY PACK, PLEASE.

HFF... HFF... HFF...
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?
SHE SAYS IT'S EASIEST TO RELAX THIS WAY.

I BET THAT'S WHERE ...
THAT COLUMN!
DUNGEON CLEANERS ARE SWARMING THERE.
HERE
I FOUND HIM! HE'S STAKED OUT HIGH UP ON THE PILLAR.
SO GRIFFINS IMPALE THEIR PREY.
SENSHI!
DADAAAN, (DA-DUUUM)

CAREFUL, MARCILLE.
GRIFFINS HAVE VERY SHARP EYES.
UMM...
HOW WILL WE GET YOU DOWN?
WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU, SENSHI!
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
BU
BU (BZZ)
BU
BU
BU
A FLY...?
HAH!
BY THE TIME YOU NOTICE IT...
...IT WILL ALREADY [redacted] WATCHING YOU.

THEIR WINGS ARE POWERFUL. THEIR LITHE BODIES ARE AGILE AND MANEUVERABLE.

THEIR BEAK AND TALONS ARE SHARP TOO.

OUTWITTING ONE WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE.

GRIFFINS' BODIES ARE VERY FUNCTIONAL.

UU!

BIKUN (FLINCH)

...I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE.

THERE ARE NO "EMPTY FLOURISHES," YOU SEE.

IT'S LIKE I SAID BEFORE.

LIVING THINGS NEED THE FORMS THEY HAVE.

NI (GRIND)

LAIOS...

...WHAT SHAPE WOULD MAKE IT A MATCH FOR A GRIFFIN?

DO WE REALLY NEED THAT HORN?
STREAMLINED BODIES HAVE LOWER AIR RESISTANCE.
THIS SHOULD MAKE IT FASTER.

KONE (KNEAD)
KONE

REMEMBER THE WYVERNS THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN USED?
THEY WERE AS SWIFT AS ARROWS.
LET'S TRY FOR A SHAPE LIKE THAT.

PA (RELEASE)
ぱっ

USE THIS ONE FOR STARTERS.
SEE HOW IT FLIES.

THE WAY IT MOVES IS...

THIS WILL WORK!

BA (FOOM)

THE REST OF YOU, GET READY FOR COMBAT AND BACK ME UP!!

I'LL DISTRACT THE GRIFFIN WHILE SENSHI CLIMBS DOWN!

ALL RIGHT, SENSHI.

USE THIS ROPE!

MAYBE THE SENSE OF ONENESS MAT-TERS?

...WHY'S SHE DOING THAT?

PATA (FLAP) PATA PATA

GOOD. AND NOW...

ZOKU (SHUDDER)

IT'S FAST—

BUON (WOOSH)

I'LL DRAW THE GRIFFIN AWAY!

COME ON, COME WITH ME!

KYU (SWISH)
I'LL GO UNDER ITS BELLY...
KUN (BOOM)
...THEN HEAD BACK TO THE GROUND—

BO (BOOMF)

ブキュ

BUKYU (SPLORTCH)

IT'S NO GOOD. I JUST CAN'T COMPETE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

?

IT GOT ME. ...

ガハ K...

GAKUN (LURCH)

TWO-HEADED DRAGON
SPITS FIRE
SPITS ICE
ADD ANOTHER HEAD!! IT'LL BE CAPABLE OF MORE, AND IT'S BOUND TO BE STRONG!
.....
WE'LL ADD MORE HORNS HERE...
...GIVE IT ALL ITS FANGS AND SHARP CLAWS!
COVER ITS BODY WITH SCALES, AND—
ALL RIGHT! LET ME HANDLE THIS!!!
I'LL MAKE IT STRON-GER! TOUGH-ER!!

NO.
...OR TO DEFEND?
HOW DO WE WIN A FIGHT WITH A GRIFFIN?
DO WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO ATTACK...

IT DOESN'T NEED CLAWS OR FANGS.
MY GIGA TWO-HEADED FLAME-ICE DRAGON!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE OVER THAT STUFF ALREADY.

SU (SHF)
GUSHAA (SQUISH)
AAAAAH!

WHAT I NEED IS...

MORE FLEXIBLE, BEAUTIFUL.

FASTER.

...THE RESOLUTION AND EGO...

...THAT I WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A CREATURE WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SAVING SENSHI!!!

YOUR NAME IS...

...PRODUCED A MIRACLE.

...HER PRAY-ERS...

JUST THEN, MARCILLE'S INTENT THOUGHTS...

SILVER WINGS THAT RACE THROUGH THE HEAVENS...

SKY FISH

SUMMONED

BIN (TENSE)

FUWAA (FLOAT)

IT'S FINE THIS WAY!!

ALL RIGHT! GO!

...REALLY UNCOOL.

BOSO (MUTTER)

THAT'S ...!

FAST!

THE WAY IT MOVES IS CREEPY!

BYUN (ZZZIP)

EVERYBODY, GET READY!

WE'RE GOING ALL-OUT!

WAAAGH!

KUNE

KUNE (WRIGGLE)

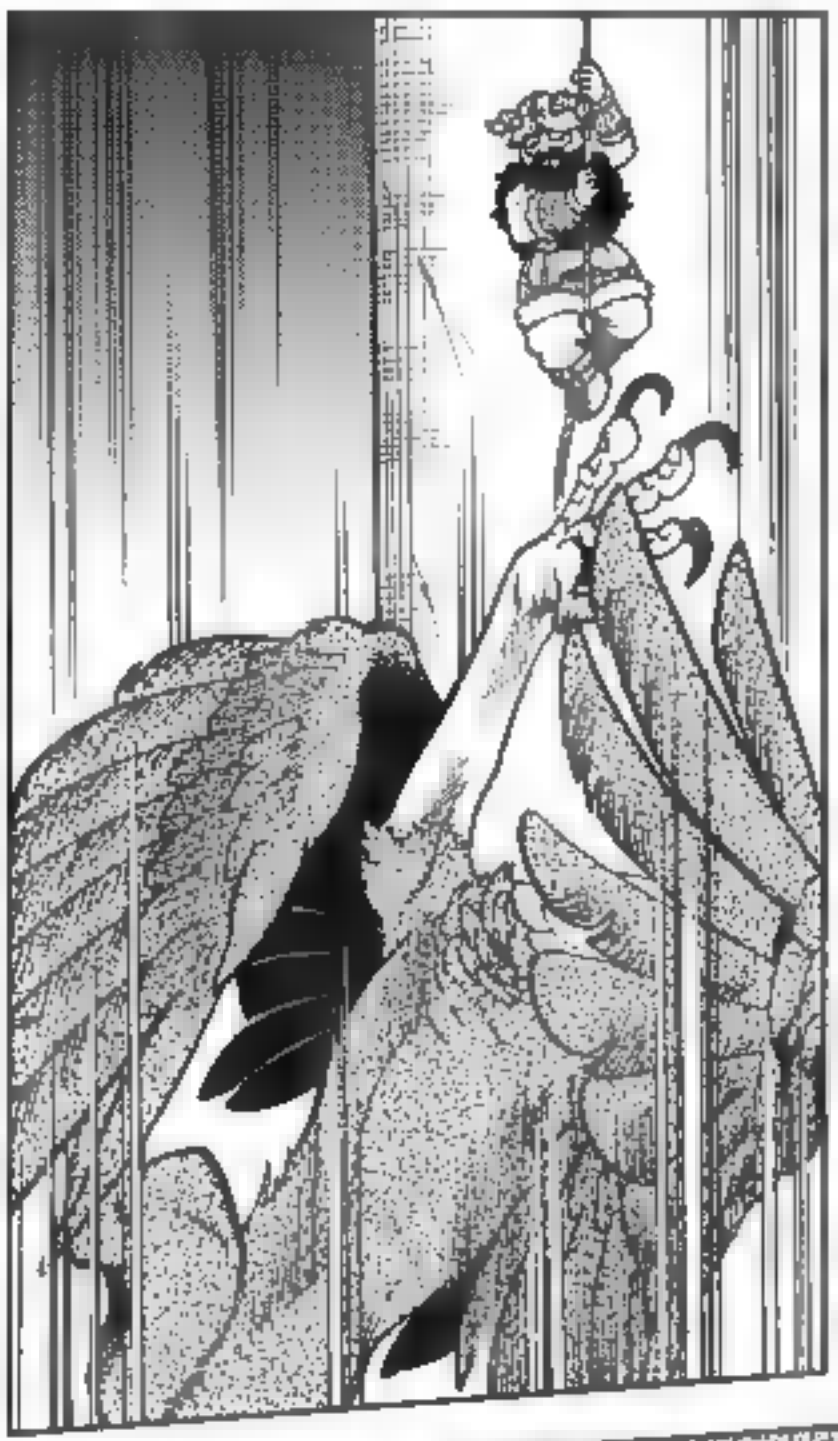
KUNE

SHE'S DOING HER BEST, THAT'S WHAT.

SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS UP WITH HER?

CHI (SNIK)
EEEP!
CAN'T STEER ...!
I'LL GET IT THIS TIME.
I...
BASAA (FLAP)

KYUN (KAPWING)
KYU
KYU (ZWIP)
A SHARP REVERSE, AND...
...PUNCH THROUGH!

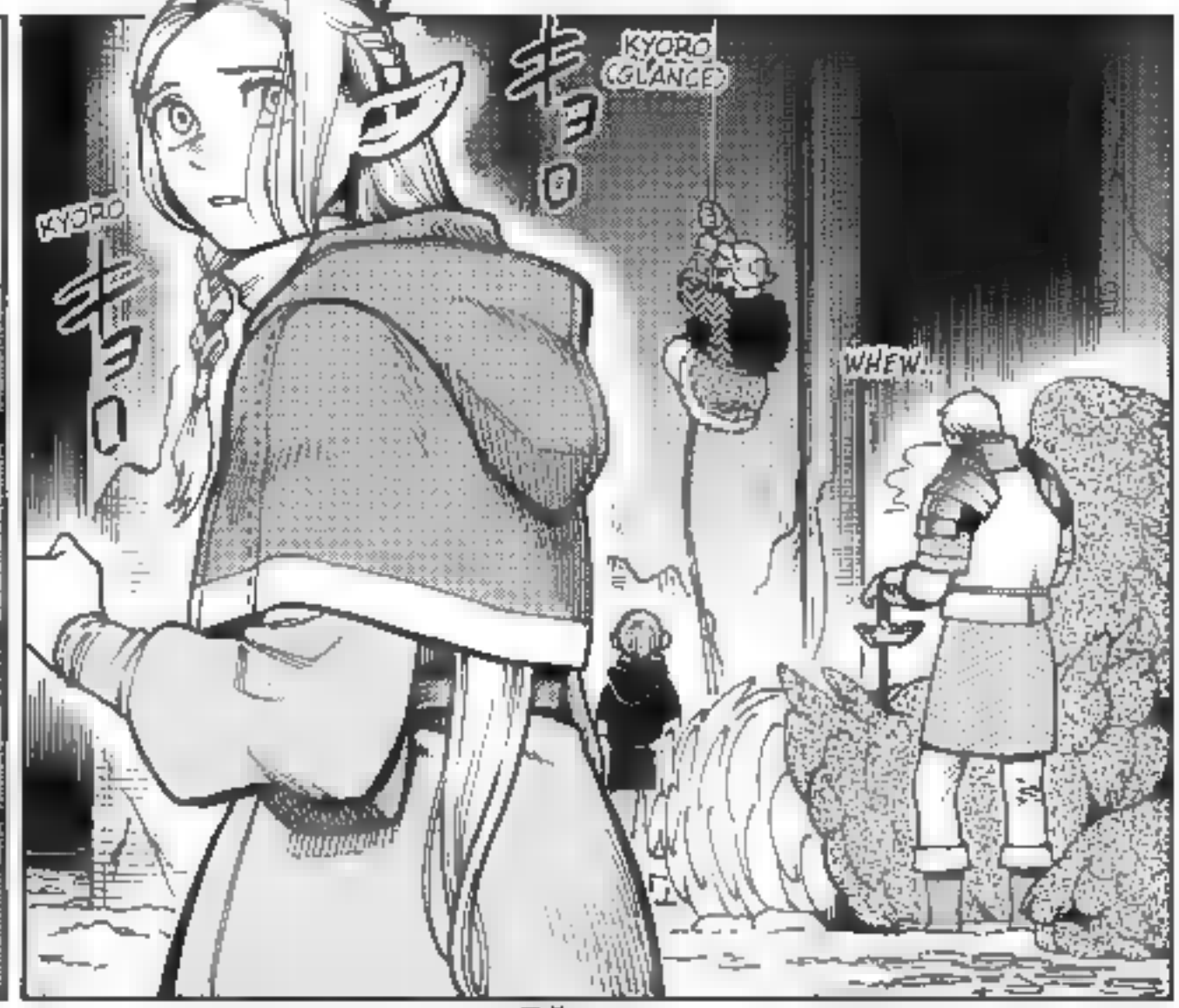


GRAWK!!

DOSHA
(WHUMP)

DO
(SHUNK)

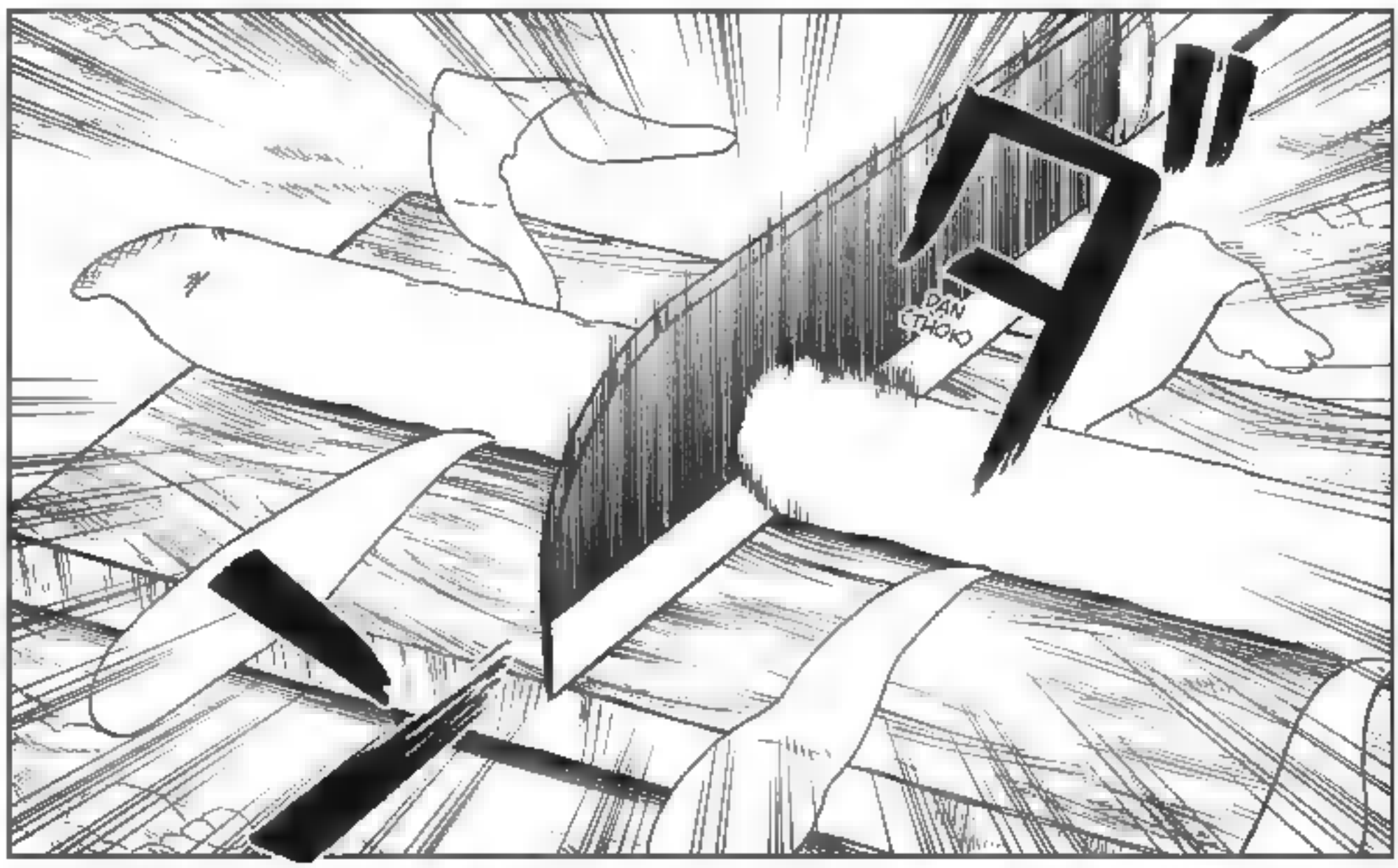
OH...


KYORO (GLANCE)
KYORO
WHEW...

たTA (TUP)
たTA
たTA
っ

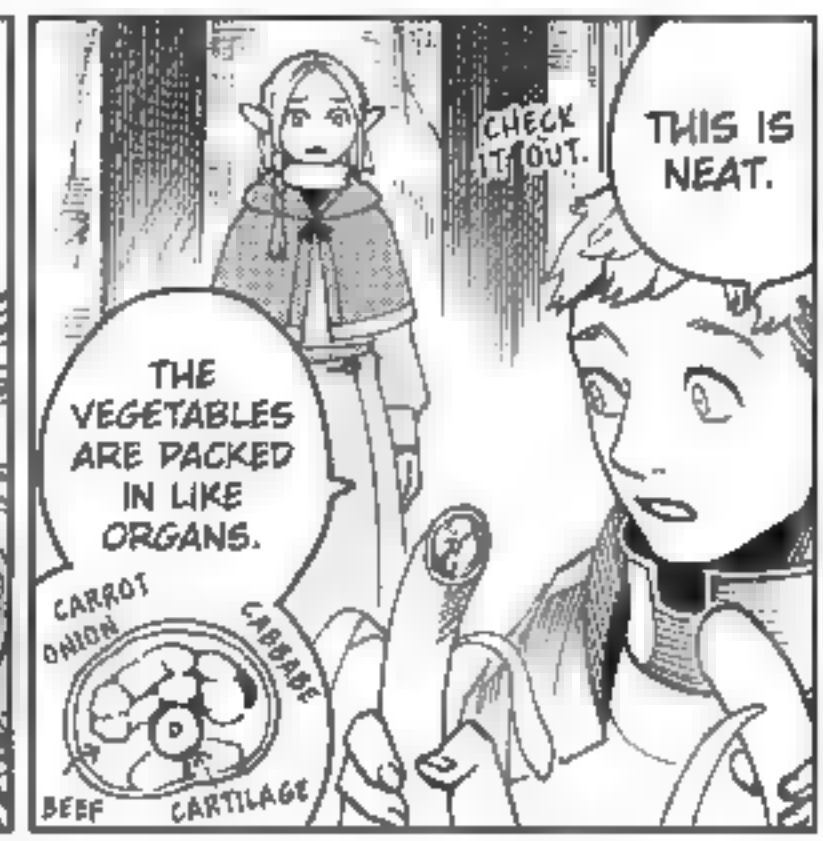
SKY FISH...

SO (SHFF)
THANK YOU...
YOU DID VERY WELL.


DAN
(THOK)

HUH? DID YOU STILL NEED IT?
NO, BUT—!!

DON
(SHOVE)
AAH!!


THIS IS NEAT.
CHECK IT OUT.
THE VEGETABLES ARE PACKED IN LIKE ORGANS.
CARROT
ONION
CABBAGE
BEEF
CARTILAGE

EATING THEIR BODIES IS A WAY TO HONOR THEIR MEMORY.
MARCILLE, THEIR LIVES ARE OVER.

YOU OKAY, SENSHI?
MM.

DRY WELL WITH A SCRAP OF CLOTH, THEN SALT AND PEPPER THEM.
◆ TIP: DRY THE WINGS PARTICULARLY WELL!

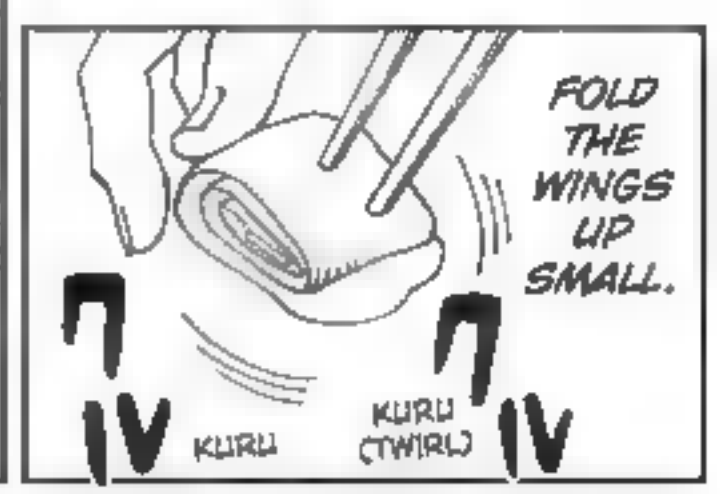
CUT THE SUMMONED CREATURE INTO APPROPRIATE LENGTHS.
TRIM THE WINGS OFF AT THE BASE.

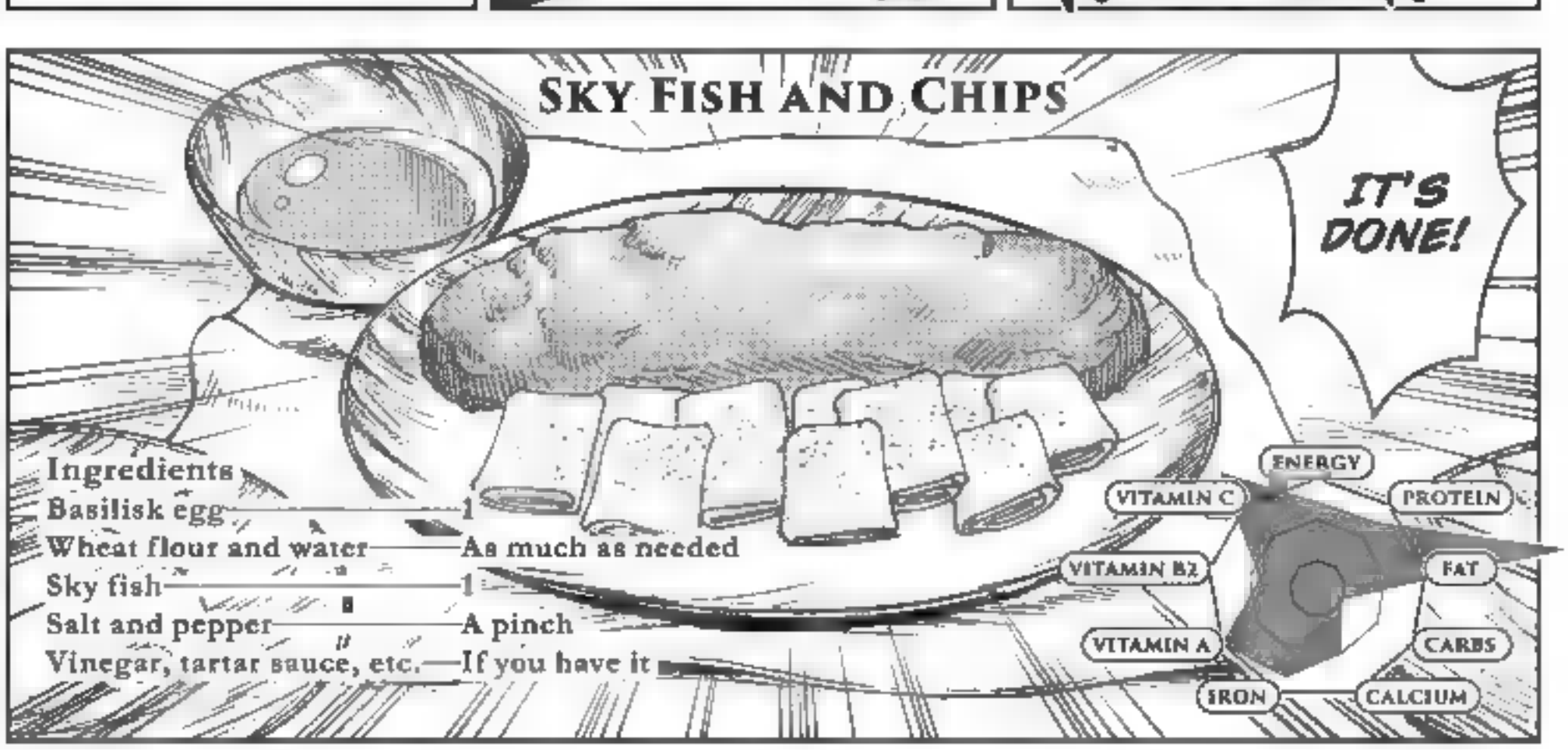
FINE. JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT.

SERVE WITH SAUCE, AND...

FRY.
THE WINGS WILL SCORCH QUICKLY, SO JUST DIP THEM IN ONLY BRIEFLY.

MIX FLOUR, EGG, AND WATER.
RUN THE SLICES THROUGH THE BATTER.


FOLD THE WINGS UP SMALL.
KURU
KURU (TWIRL)


SKY FISH AND CHIPS
IT'S DONE!
Ingredients
Basilisk egg — 1
Wheat flour and water — As much as needed
Sky fish — 1
Salt and pepper — A pinch
Vinegar, tartar sauce, etc. — If you have it
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM

YEAH. LITERALLY.
THIS IS GOOD! IT'S A PERFECT FUSION OF MEAT AND VEG!
SAKU
SAKU
SAKU CRUNCH

I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT THAT LIQUOR BACK WITH ME.
DAMN.
IZUTSUMI, EAT MORE THAN JUST THE WINGS.
DON'T WANNA.
IF IT USES A WEEK'S WORTH OF FOOD FOR ONE MEAL, IT'S NOT "EXCELLENT."
EASY MEALS WITH FAMILIARS
I BET YOU COULD WRITE A WHOLE BOOK.
SUMMONING MIGHT MAKE AN EXCELLENT COOKING METHOD.
HAAAH...

WANT TO DRAIN THE BLOOD?
SEN-SHI?
IS THE GRIFFIN BODY BOTHER-ING YOU?
YOU TOO, SENSHI. TRY SOME...

AHEM.
...HEY, SENSHI?
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING...
I'M JUST... NOT HUNGRY NOW.

MY NAME IS CHIL-CHUCK.
I WAS BORN IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN A BASIN, NORTHEAST OF HERE.

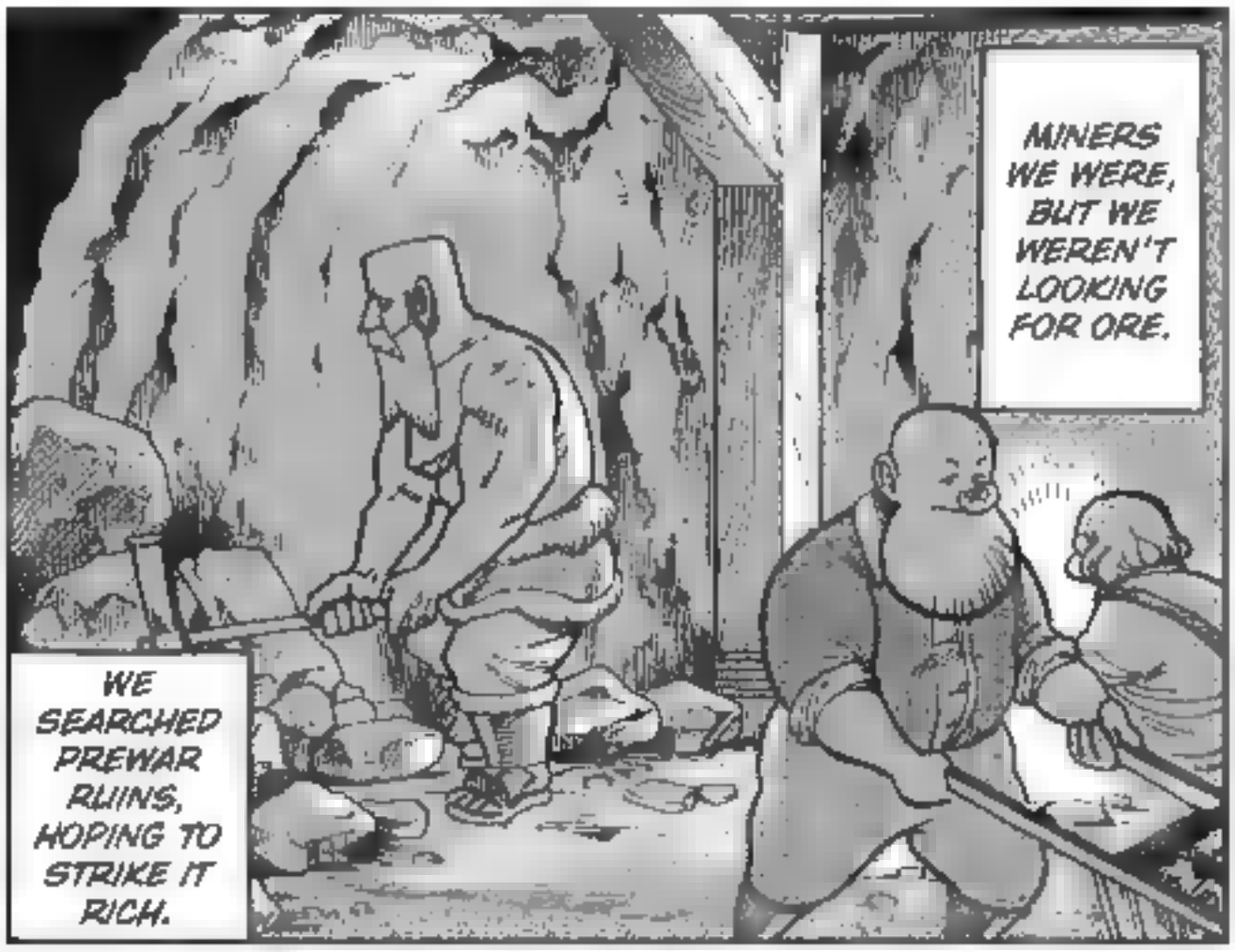
HUH?
I'VE ALSO GOT A WIFE [redacted] DAUGHTER, BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN YEARS.

I'VE [redacted] DOING BUSINESS [redacted] OR AROUND VARIOUS DUNGEONS FOR A DECADE OR SO.
OPENING LOCKS, INTERPRET-ING...
MEDIAT-ING...
APPRAIS-ING...

.....
WHAT HAPPENED?
DAUGHTER??
WHY ARE YOU LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

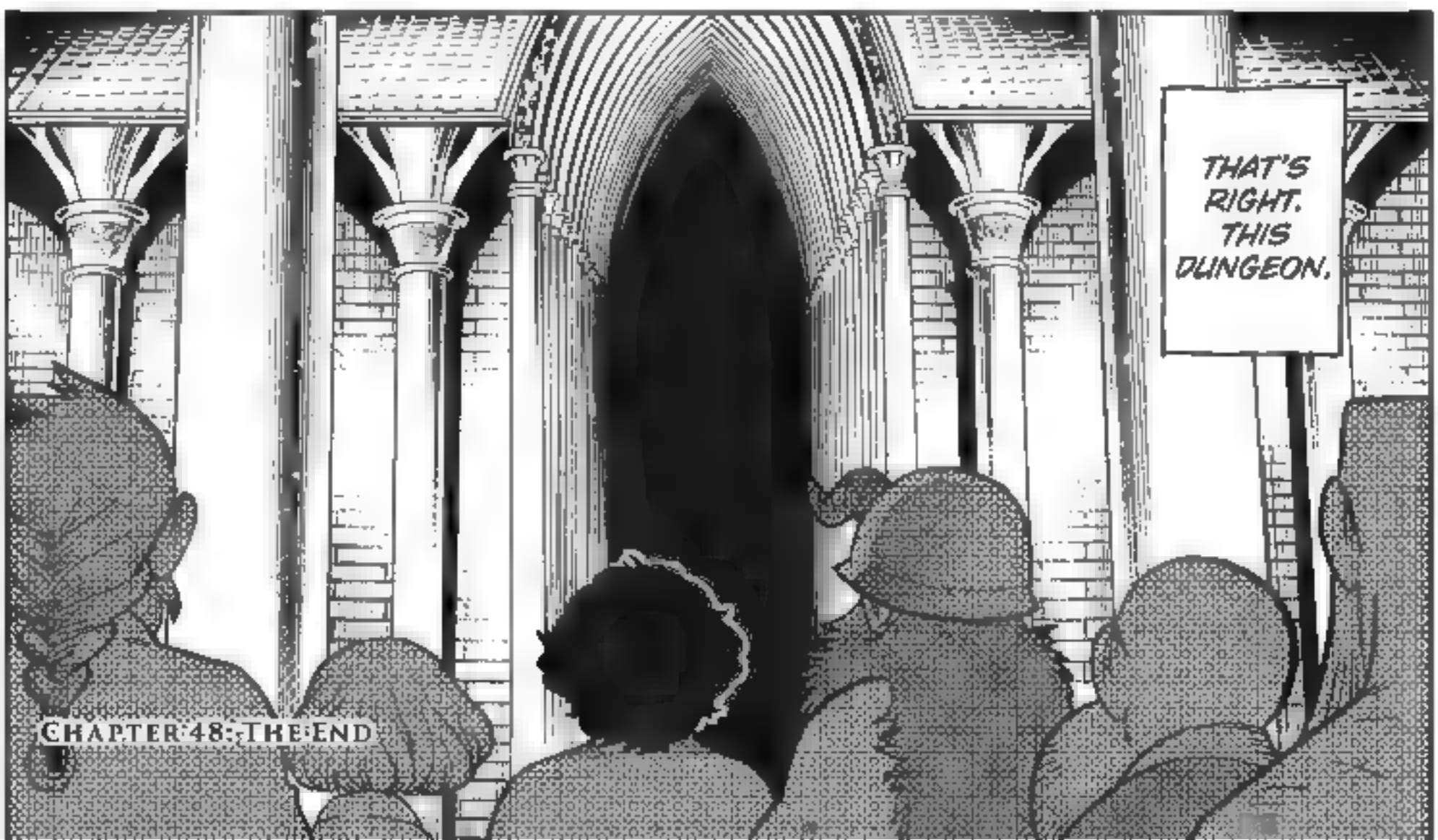
HAAH.

WIFE?
THAT'S MY PAST IN A NUT-SHELL.
NOW TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF, OKAY?


WE SEARCHED PREWAR RUINS, HOPING TO STRIKE IT RICH.
MINERS WE WERE, BUT WE WEREN'T LOOKING FOR ORE.

I WAS PART OF A SMALL MINING GROUP.
MY NAME IS SENSHI OF IZGANDA.

AN ANCIENT CASTLE THAT SHONE WITH GOLD...
ONE DAY, WE STRUCK SOMETHING HUGE.
THAT SAID...
...ORE MADE UP THE BULK OF OUR TAKE, AND WE WERE LUCKY TO FIND RELICS LIKE GEARS OR LENSES ONCE IN A WHILE.


THAT'S RIGHT. THIS DUNGEON.
CHAPTER 48: THE END

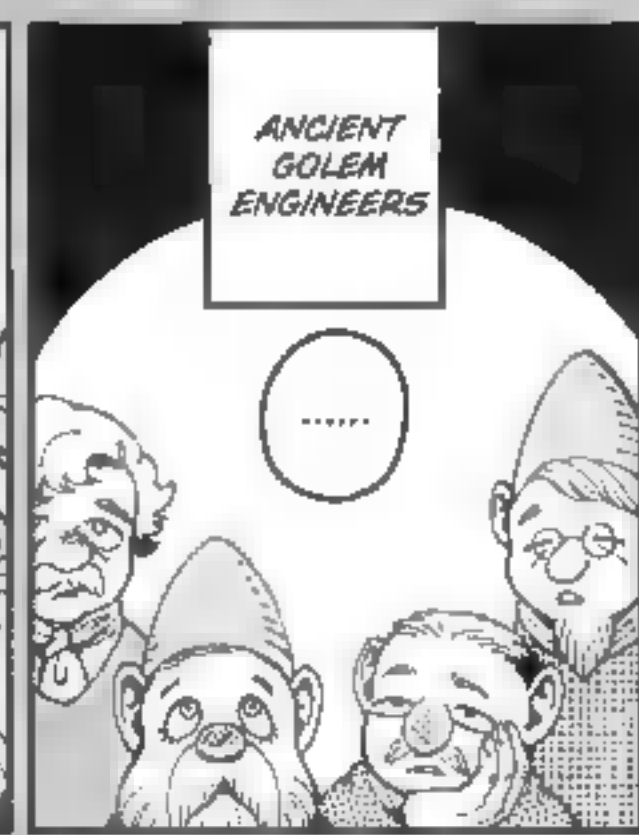
I DID A LOT OF SOIL IMPROVEMENT WORK.
HUH!

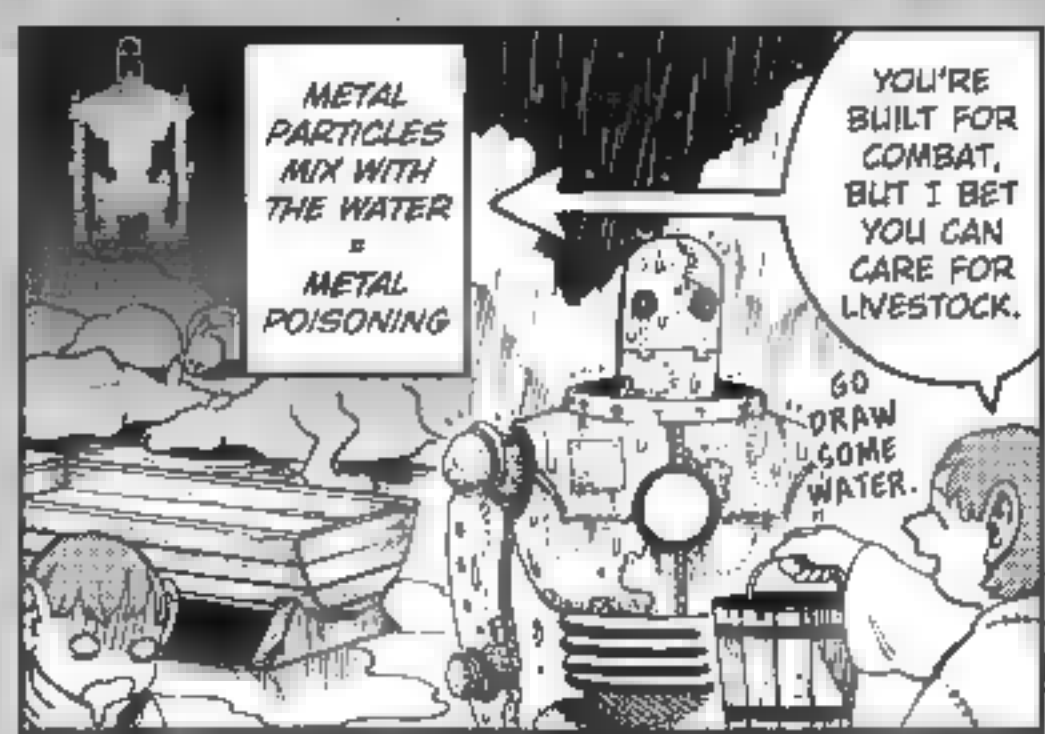
THE SECOND FLOOR GOLEMS WERE ALL PEBBLES TO BEGIN WITH.
SO GOLEMS MOVE THINGS OTHER THAN DIRT?

MISC. MONSTER TALES
ICE GOLEM
7

WE DESIGNED THEM TO OPERATE APPROPRI-ATELY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS !!
DON'T USE THEM IN NON-STANDARD WAYS JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN!

DON'T! JUST— DON'T !!!
DON'T USE THEM RAN-DOMLY!!


ANCIENT GOLEM ENGINEERS
.....


METAL PARTICLES MIX WITH THE WATER = METAL POISONING
YOU'RE BUILT FOR COMBAT, BUT I BET YOU CAN CARE FOR LIVESTOCK.
GO DRAW SOME WATER.

FIRE IGNITES METHANE = KABOOM
YOU CAN MAKE THEM CHARGE...
...OR USE THEM AS SHIELDS...
GOLEMS MADE FROM SEWAGE WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE SOLDIERS, NO?

I WANT TO GO HOME.
THIS IS ROUGH.
JUST HURRY UP, RUN THOSE TRIALS, AND MAKE THE DELIVERY DATE!

IF YOU PEOPLE WOULD JUST... STICK TO THE CODE...
THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO COME UP WITH POINTLESS WHAT-IFS AND COUNTER-MEASURES!

YOU CUT YOUR HAIR FOR MY SAKE?
MY APOLO-GIES.
HUH!?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY I WEAR IT LONG IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHOKI (SNIP)
SHOKI

FAMILIAR

BY THE WAY, FOR THAT SPELL, WHERE DID THE HAIR FACTOR INTO THE PROCESS?
I PUT IT IN THE FAMILIARS. WHY?

IF I'M LEARNING MAGIC, SHOULD I GROW MY HAIR OUT?
YUM!
HEH...
YOU CAN IF YOU WANT.
SOME SHAVE THEIR HEADS BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT THEIR MANA SCATTERING.
IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR SKILLS.

HAIR IS HANDY.
IT'S WEAKER THAN BLOOD, BUT IT DOESN'T HURT, IT CAN CHANGE SHAPE...
...AND CARING FOR IT IS A WARM-UP EXERCISE.

BLARGH!
HEY, A HAIRBALL.
CATS COUGH UP ANYTHING THEY CAN'T DIGEST LIKE THAT.
I THINK I'M GONNA BARF TOO.
WELL, I DID TELL YOU!

SHAKU (MUNCH)
PARI
PARI (CRUNCH)
PARI

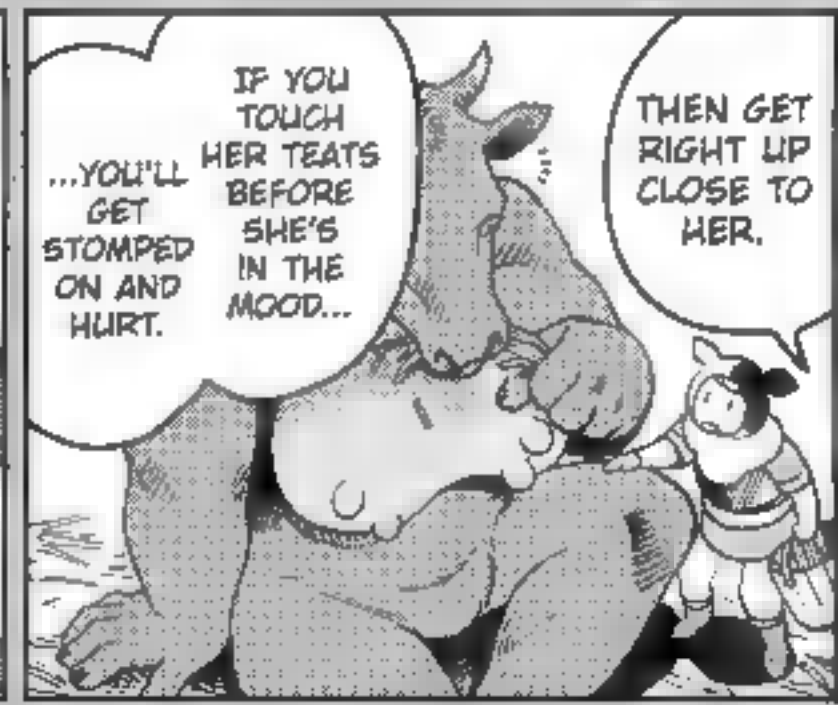
HORK.
HURK.
HURK.
PITA (FREEZE)

I SEE. WELL.
WHEN THEY'RE THIS BIG, THERE'S A KNACK TO IT.

YES, GOATS AND SHEEP...
...HAVE YOU EVER MILKED BEFORE?
モグ
MOGU
モグ
MOGU CMUNCH)

MINOTAUR
OKAY, SO...

HYOI-
(YOINK)


...YOU'LL GET STOMPED ON AND HURT.
IF YOU TOUCH HER TEATS BEFORE SHE'S IN THE MOOD...
THEN GET RIGHT UP CLOSE TO HER.

YOU'LL ONLY NEED THIS AT FIRST...
...BUT USE THIS THIS TIME.
FIRST, BECOME A CALF!

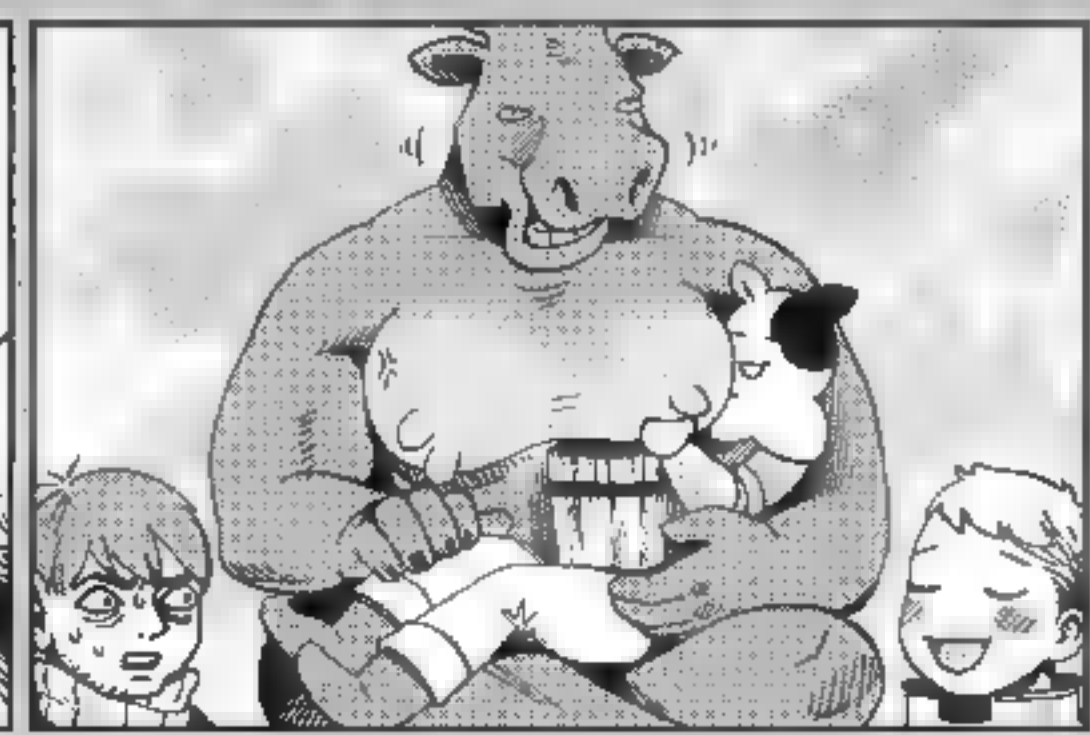
IT WORK-ED!
(SPOOSH)

3
4
5
SQUEEZE WITH YOUR FINGERS IN ORDER, STARTING AT THE TOP.

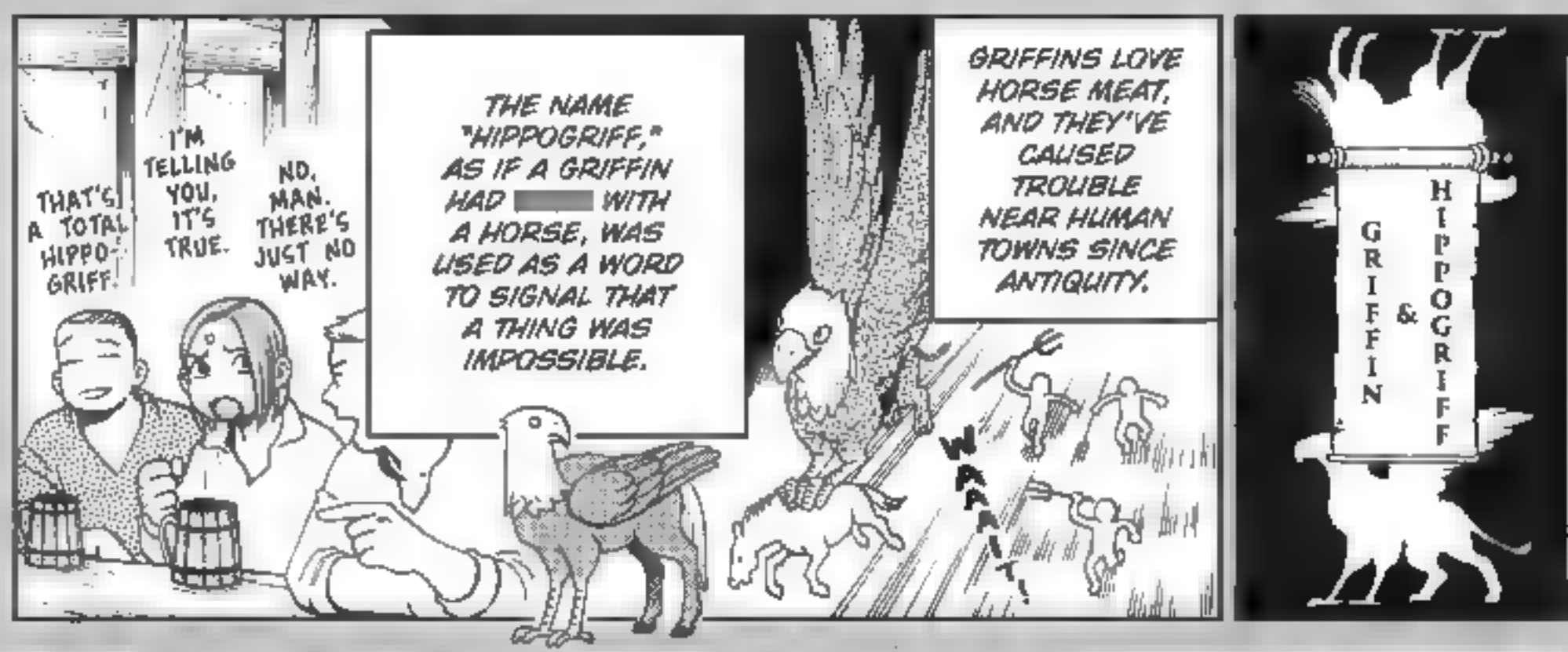
2
1
GRASP THE BASE OF THE TEAT WITH YOUR THUMB AND FORE-FINGER.

FROM HERE ON, IT'S THE SAME AS WITH GOATS.

OH. THAT.
...OF BECOMING A RANCH COW.



OH, THIS TAKES ME BACK.
THAT'S RIGHT... I ALWAYS DREAMED—


THAT'S A TOTAL HIPPO-GRIFF.
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S TRUE.
NO, MAN. THERE'S JUST NO WAY.
THE NAME "HIPPOGRIFF," AS IF A GRIFFIN HAD [redacted] WITH A HORSE, WAS USED AS A WORD TO SIGNAL THAT A THING WAS IMPOSSIBLE.
GRIFFINS LOVE HORSE MEAT, AND THEY'VE CAUSED TROUBLE NEAR HUMAN TOWNS SINCE ANTIQUITY.
WAAAH!
GRIFFIN & HIPPOGRIFF

...TO DESCRIBE THE IMPOSSIBLE ACTUALLY HAPPENING.
AND SO THE PROVERB "A HIPPO-GRIFF [redacted] A LIQUOR BARREL" WAS COINED...
BUT THEN THEY TURNED OUT TO EXIST.
HUH!?
...PEOPLE THOUGHT THEY'D BEEN DRUNK [redacted] SEEN WRONG, AND NOBODY BELIEVED THEM.
EVEN WHEN PEOPLE SWORE THEY'D REALLY SEEN ONE...

I KNOW THAT ONE.
IT'S AN EASTERN PROVERB.
...OH.
HA HA HA!
HEH! I LIED.
I CAME UP WITH IT JUST NOW.
THAT WAS POINT-LESS.
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE.
WHERE'S THE PROVERB FROM?
HUH!
THAT'S FASCINATING.

"A HORSE FROM A GOURD"!
UMM...
IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT A HORSE COMING OUT OF A SAKE BOTTLE...
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
NO...
THEY DON'T HAVE HIPPOGRIFFS IN THE EAST.
HUH?
I DUNNO ABOUT THE HIPPO-THINGIES.

Translation Notes

Page 37
For several hundred years after Buddhism rose to prominence in Japan, the national diet was primarily vegetarian, and it stayed that way until the early Meiji period. One of the driving factors behind the shift away from meat eating was the belief that people could be reincarnated as animals, meaning anyone who ate animals might well be eating a former human, and it was believed that people who did eat meat would [illegible] back [illegible] animals in their [illegible] life.

Page 54
Balut is a type of street food from the Philippines originally introduced from China in the late 1800s. It consists of fertilized duck or chicken [illegible] (eggs with partially developed embryos inside) that [illegible] boiled in their shells and served—egg, embryo, bones, and all.

Page 59
Note the [illegible] dishes of salt by the doorposts. Shinto beliefs hold that salt is spiritually purifying, and setting dishes of salt on either side of a door is thought [illegible] create [illegible] protective barrier that keeps sickness and evil influences from entering.

The shelf opposite the door is a simple *kamidana*, a household Shinto altar. The papers with writing on them are *ofuda* talismans; if this is an ordinary altar, [illegible] will have the name of a local Shinto deity, and the other will be from the shrine where they usually worship. The dishes hold offerings of salt, rice, and water. The plants are branches of *sakaki* (*Cleyera japonica*), a tree that is held [illegible] be sacred in Shinto.

Page 154
Marcille technically says "crucified," but the word can also be used for "impalement" in Japanese, particularly when referring to how a shrike kills its prey by impaling it [illegible] sharp thorns and branches. The fact that they aren't panicking [illegible] imply that neither of them [illegible] taking "impaled" (or "crucified") completely literally.

Page 205
In folklore, one way [illegible] tell whether someone was a changeling, [illegible] get [illegible] known changeling to [illegible] home and return your loved [illegible] was [illegible] throw it [illegible] the fire. A human would scream for help; a changeling would fly up the chimney and go back where [illegible] had [illegible] from, and the human it had replaced would be returned. This should obviously not be attempted in real life, but this belief was actually the driving force behind a notorious murder case in Ireland in 1895, in which the husband of Bridget Cleary set his wife on fire, claiming in his defense that she had been a changeling.

Page 215
Hyoutan kara koma, or "A horse from a gourd," [illegible] Japanese proverb meaning "Sometimes things that sound crazy actually do happen."

Enjoying *Delicious in Dungeon*? Don't miss *Seven Little Sons of the Dragon*, author Ryoko Kui's all-new collection of seven short stories! Heartwarming tales of dragons, mermaids, gods, and little ones await in this magical world!

In stores November 2019!

7

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

DUNGEON MESHI Volume 7 © Ryoko Kui 2019
First published in Japan in 2019 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo.

English translation [redacted] 2019 by Yen Press, LLC

Yen Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
150 West 30th Street, 19th Street
New York, NY 10001

Visit [redacted] at yenpress.com
facebook.com/yenpress
twitter.com/yenpress
yenpress.tumblr.com
instagram.com/yenpress

First Yen Press Edition: October 2019

Yen Press is [redacted] imprint of Yen Press, LLC.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Yen Press, LLC.

The publisher is [redacted] responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017932141

ISBNs: 978-1-9753-5858-7 (paperback)
978-1-9753-8669-6 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

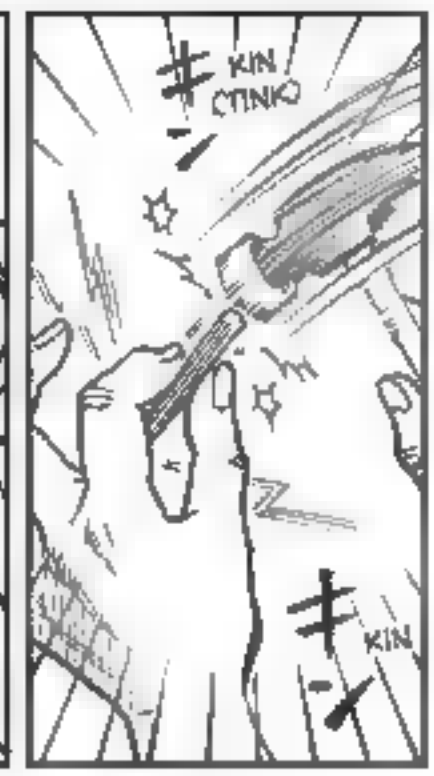
WOR

Printed in the United States of America

49. Griffin Soup

THERE IS AN ANCIENT RUINED KINGDOM !!

I KNEW IT! IT ISN'T JUST A LEGEND !!



HEH.
I SEE. THAT YOUNG STILL, HUH?
DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF.
YOU WAIT HERE.

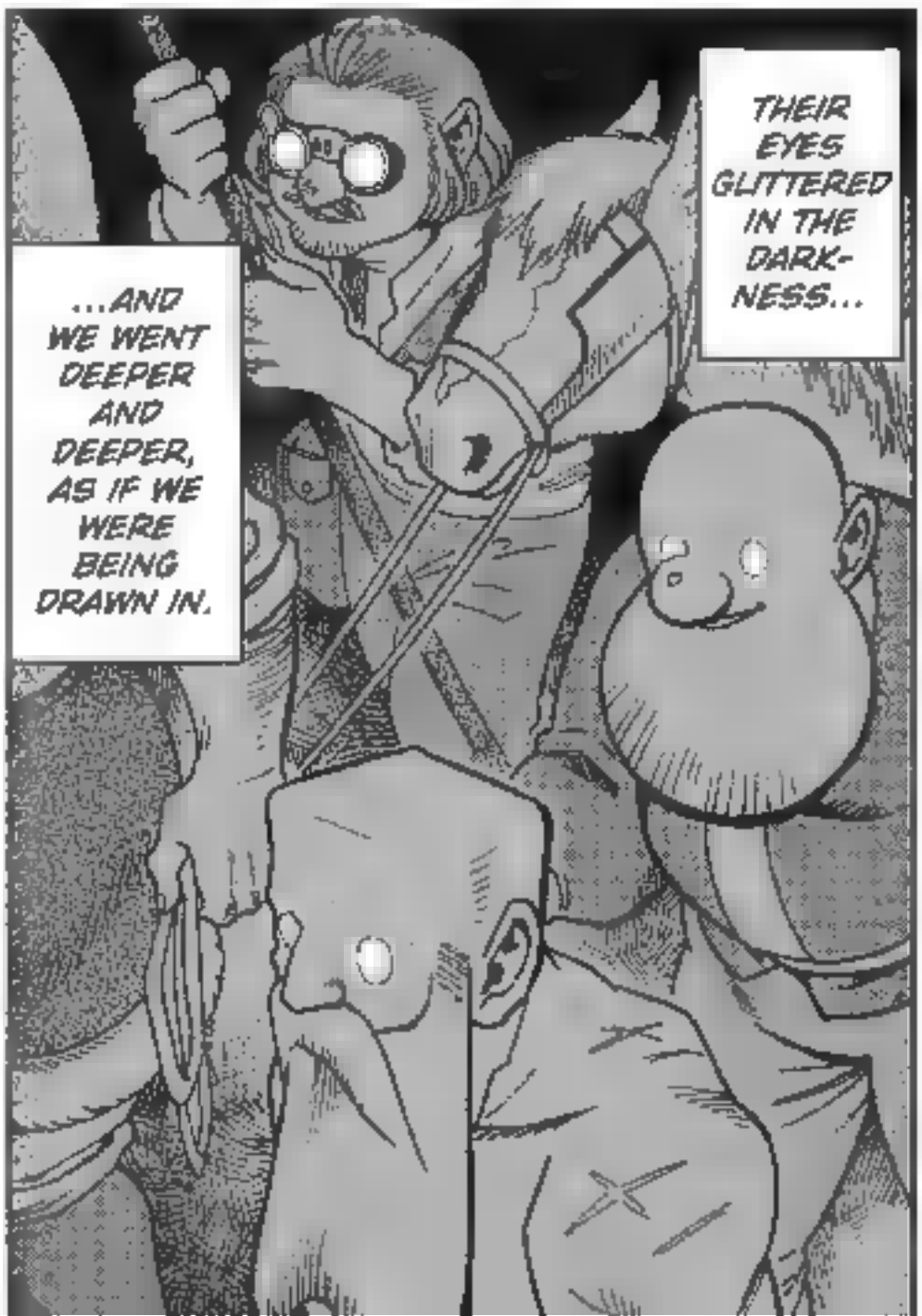
SENSHI. HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
...I'M THIRTY-SIX THIS YEAR.

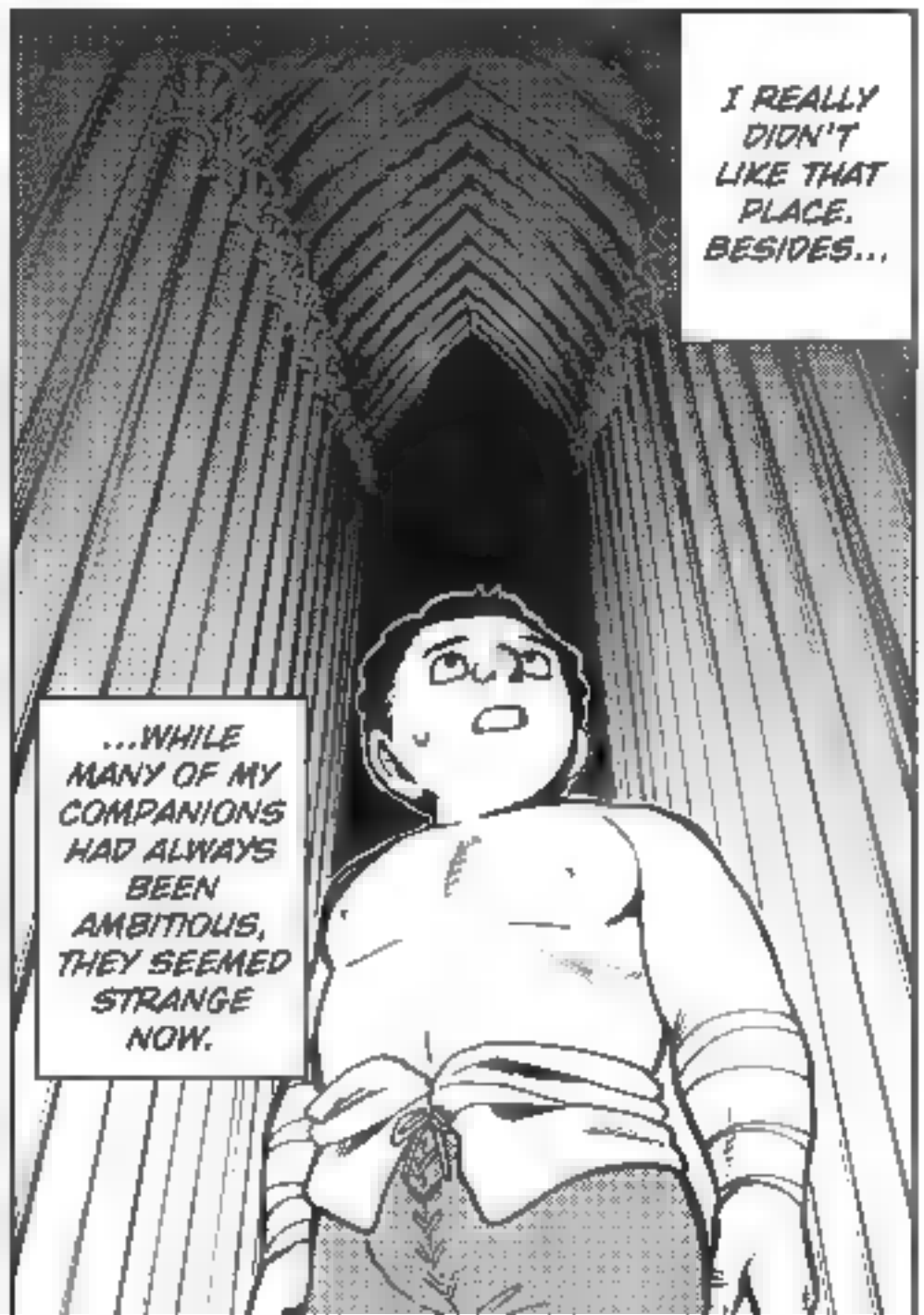
BRING THE HORSE.

I WAS SCARED TO BE LEFT ALONE, SO I LIED.

WHOA.
NO!
BA CRUSH
I WANT GOLD TOO.

GRR!


THEIR EYES GLITTERED IN THE DARK-NESS...
...AND WE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER, AS IF WE WERE BEING DRAWN IN.


I REALLY DIDN'T LIKE THAT PLACE. BESIDES...
...WHILE MANY OF MY COMPANIONS HAD ALWAYS BEEN AMBITIOUS, THEY SEEMED STRANGE NOW.

KATAN (CLATTER)
BATATA (SCRABBLE)

WE EXPLORED INTENTLY ...
...AND THEN, SUDDENLY, IT BEGAN.

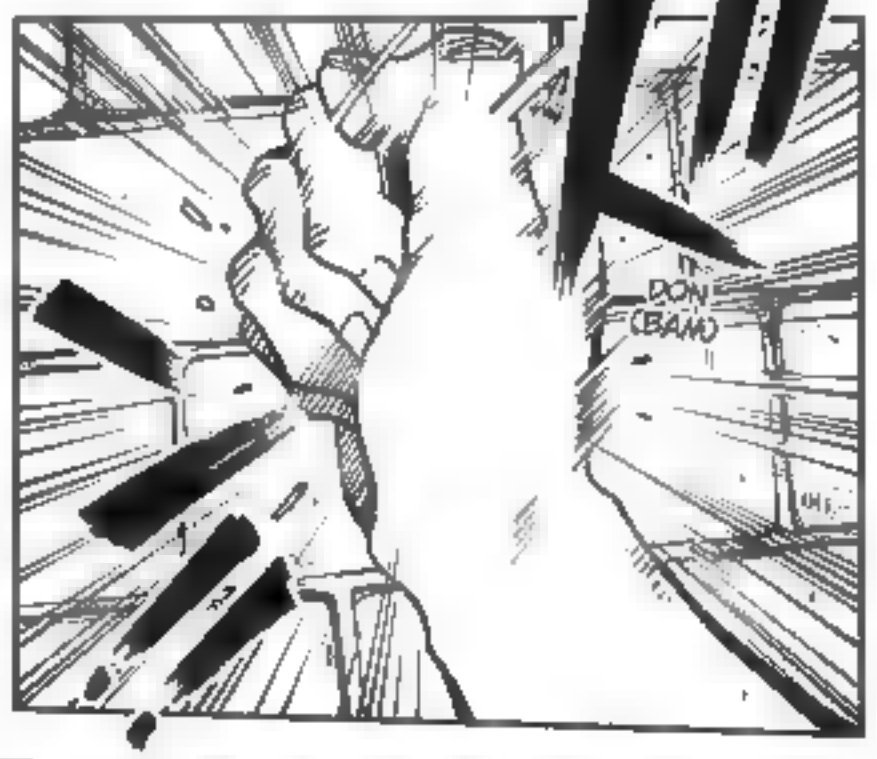
A HUGE BIRD MONSTER APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE...
...AND IT KILLED TOTAN!

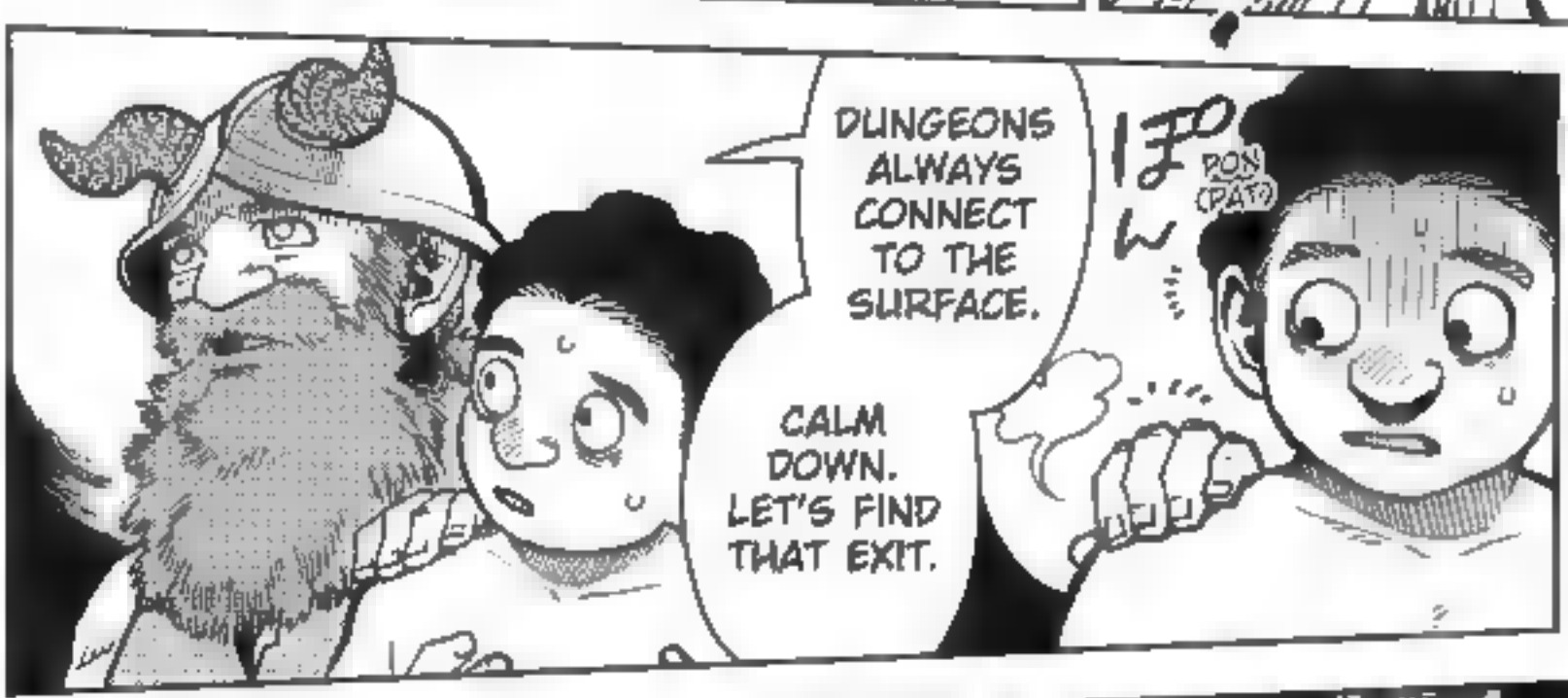
WHAT HAP-PENED !?
M-M-MONSTER ...

...WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET BACK.

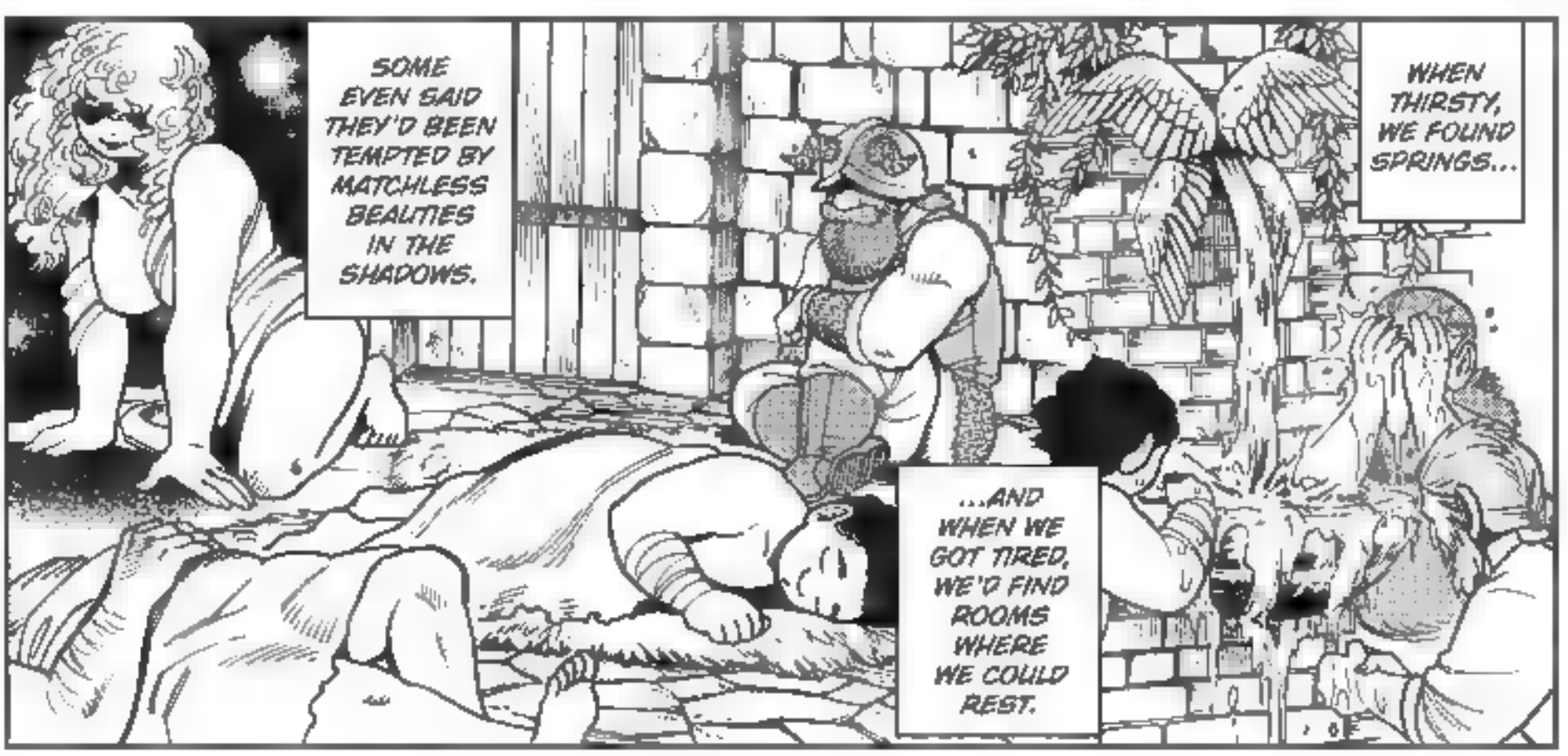
IT'S TURNED INTO A DUN-GEON!
THIS ISN'T JUST A RUIN.
THE FEAR FINALLY WOKE THEM UP, BUT BY THEN...

BLAST. THERE WAS NO WALL HERE BEFORE.
ARE WE TRAPPED!?


DON (BAM)


DUNGEONS ALWAYS CONNECT TO THE SURFACE.
CALM DOWN. LET'S FIND THAT EXIT.
DON (PAT)

IT WAS ODD...
WE WANDERED THE DUNGEON, AVOIDING MONSTERS.


SOME EVEN SAID THEY'D BEEN TEMPTED BY MATCHLESS BEAUTIES IN THE SHADOWS.
WHEN THIRSTY, WE FOUND SPRINGS...
...AND WHEN WE GOT TIRED, WE'D FIND ROOMS WHERE WE COULD REST.

EDIBLE?
EVEN MONSTERS MUST EAT SOMETHING TO STAY ALIVE.
IF WE JUST KEEP RUNNING FROM MONSTERS, WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH.
WE NEED TO FIND SOMETHING EDIBLE, EVEN IF IT MEANS FIGHTING.

BEFORE LONG, OUR FOOD RAN OUT.

NOOR AND I WILL USE WEAPONS AND DRIVE THE MONSTERS BACK.
INVAR, BRIGAN.
YOU TAKE SHIELDS AND GUARD US.

TO THINK WE'D BE USING OUR HEIRLOOM BATTLE GEAR AS IT WAS MEANT TO USED.

LET'S GO!

...YOU STAY HERE AND MAKE A MAP OF THE AREA.

AND, SENSHI...

GUI (PUSH)
OUT OF THE WAY.
WE HAVE TO TREAT HIM, FAST.

THAT WOUND...!
THE BIRD MONSTER TURNED UP AGAIN.
THE BASTARD FLEES RIGHT INTO THE AIR.

I FELT WRETCHED FOR GETTING HUNGRY WHEN I'D DONE NOTHING.

WE FOUND FOOD.
YOU EAT THIS.

I-I'LL GO HUNT FOR FOOD WITH YOU NEXT TIME!
NO NEED. YOU'D BE IN THE WAY.

PRESSED FOR FOOD, WE FINALLY PUT DOWN THE HORSE.
EACH TIME WE FOUGHT, WE LOST COMPANIONS.
THE "BIRD" PURSUED US TENACIOUSLY.
WE STARTED SEARCHING HARDER FOR THE DAY'S FOOD THAN THE EXIT.

IT PROBABLY ENJOYS KILLING.
THEY SAY MONSTERS TEND TO BE LIKE THAT.
WHY DOES IT HATE US SO MUCH?
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S HUNGRY.

A FOUR-LEGGED EAGLE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. IT'S A GRIFFIN.

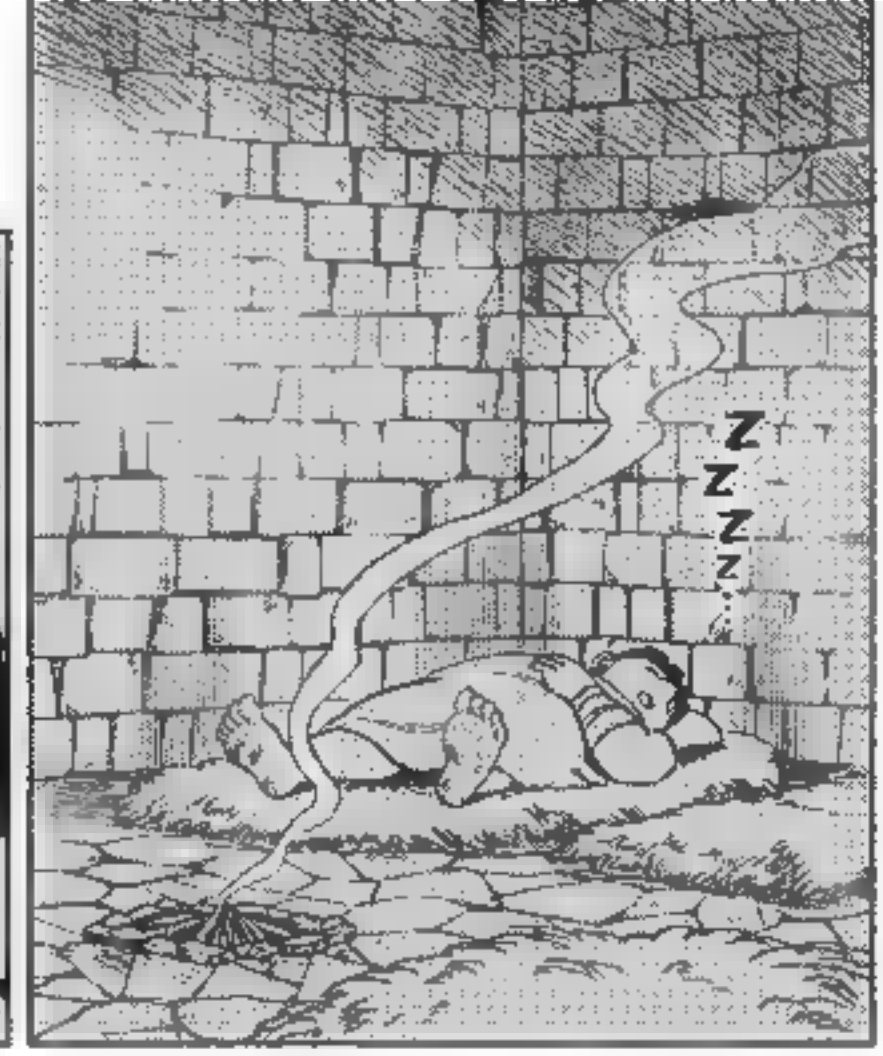
WANT SECONDS, SENSHI?
DON'T YOU WORRY.
NEXT TIME IT SHOWS UP, WE'LL JUST ROAST IT WHOLE AND EAT IT.

.....

BE GRATEFUL TO ANNE AND EAT A LOT.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
GIVING A USELESS BRAT THE BULK OF THE FOOD...

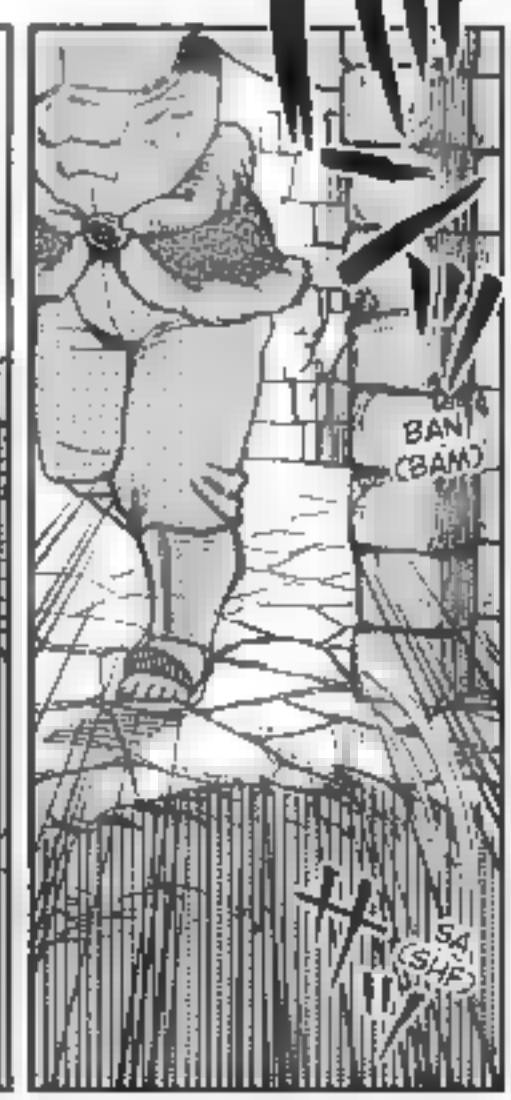
BOSO (MUTTER)
BOSO


ZZZZ

SENSHI'S LEARNING ALL SORTS OF THINGS RIGHT NOW.
AT THIS POINT, FOOD'S ALL WE CAN LOOK FOR...
...BUT IF HE LEARNS ABOUT THE DUNGEON...
...HE MAY END UP BEING THE KEY THAT SHOWS US THE EXIT.

WE'RE ADULTS. IT'S OUR RESPONSI-BILITY TO LOOK AFTER HIM.
HE'S STILL GROW-ING.
WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF LEEWAY!

ANOTHER OUTBURST LIKE THAT, AND I KICK YOU OUT.


BAN (BAM)
SA (SHF)

IF WE CAN'T CARE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, WE'RE DONE FOR.
TCH!

I'VE BEEN WONDER-ING...
WHY IS THERE LIQUOR AND FOOD IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

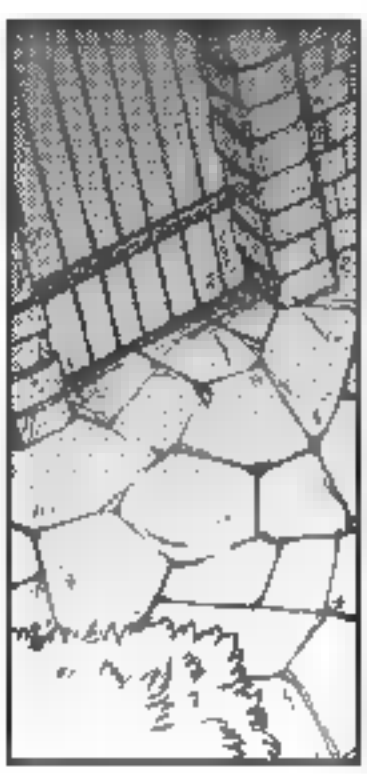
THAT'S TODAY'S TAKE.

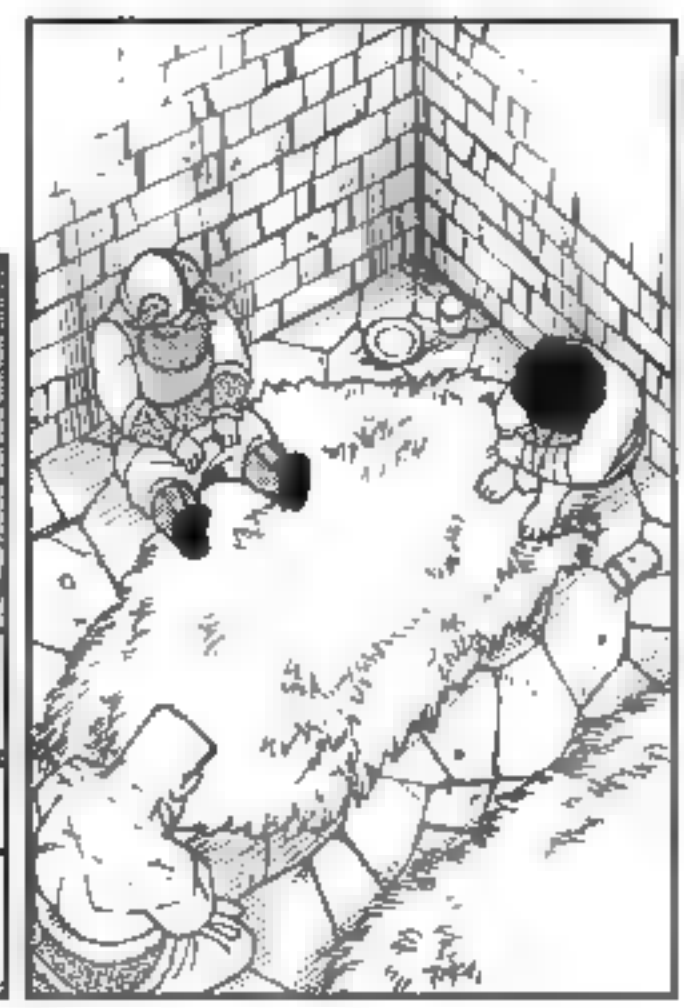
DOSA (WHUMP)
DOSA

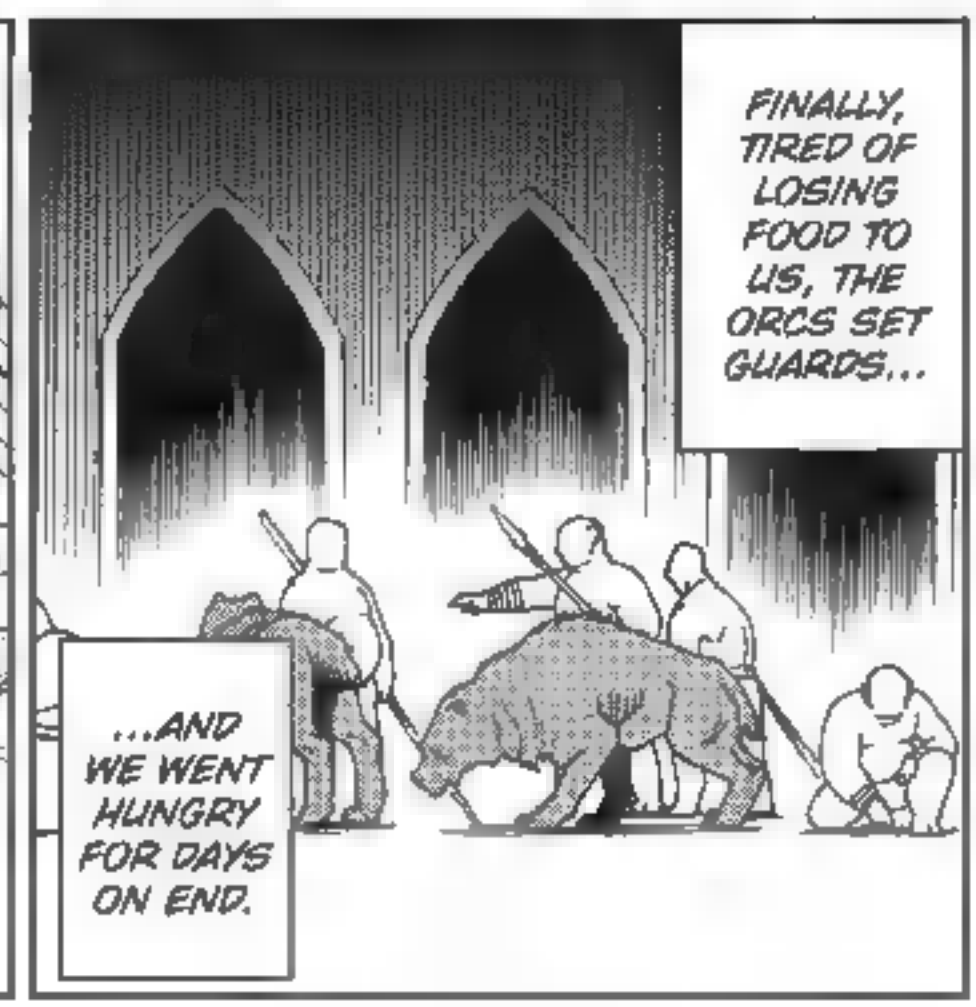
HMM...

PHEW...
HOW DO THEY LIVE HERE?
DEMI-HUMANS ARE PRETTY MUCH HALF MONSTER.
THEY PROBABLY HIT IT OFF.

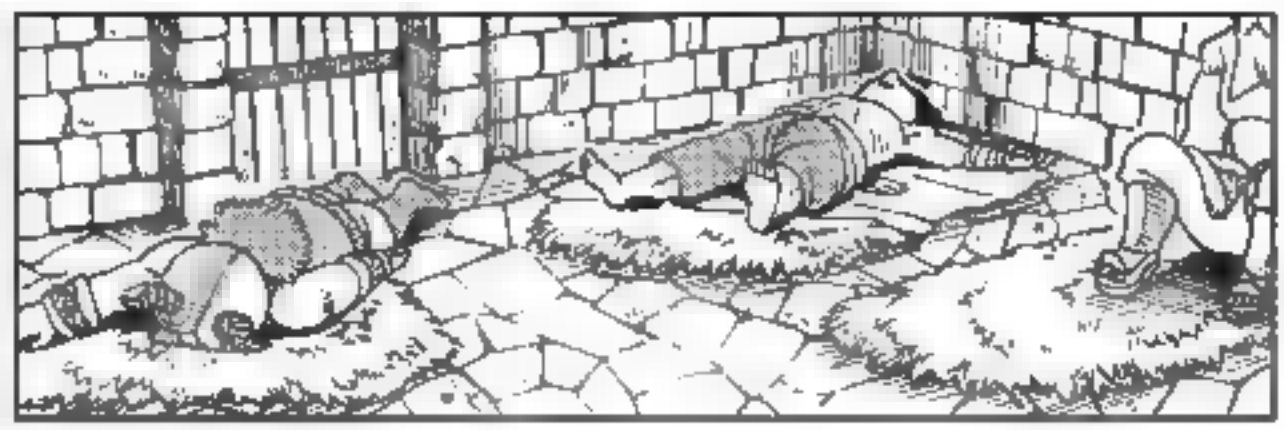
ORCS.
THEY BUILD VILLAGES IN DUNGEONS.






FINALLY, TIRED OF LOSING FOOD TO US, THE ORCS SET GUARDS...
...AND WE WENT HUNGRY FOR DAYS ON END.

...I'M HUNGRY.



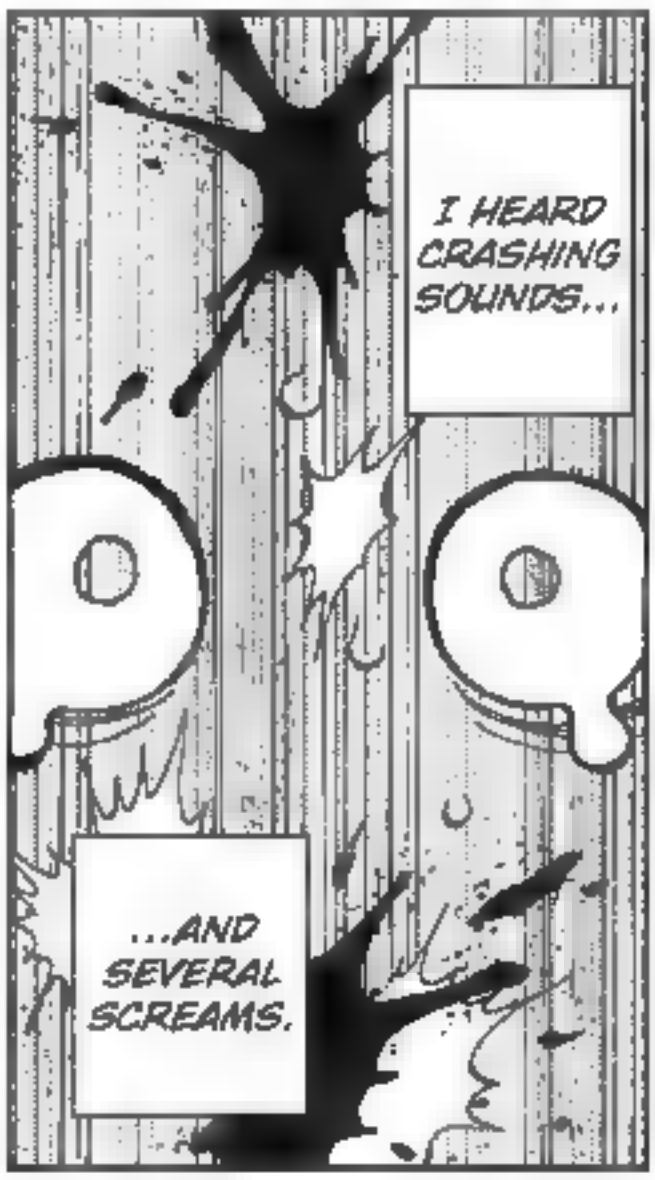
DOKI (BADUM)
HEY.
PA (FLICK)

PERO (LICK)
IF I'VE GOT IRON FLOWING THROUGH ME...
...YOU'D THINK I COULD EAT ROCKS.

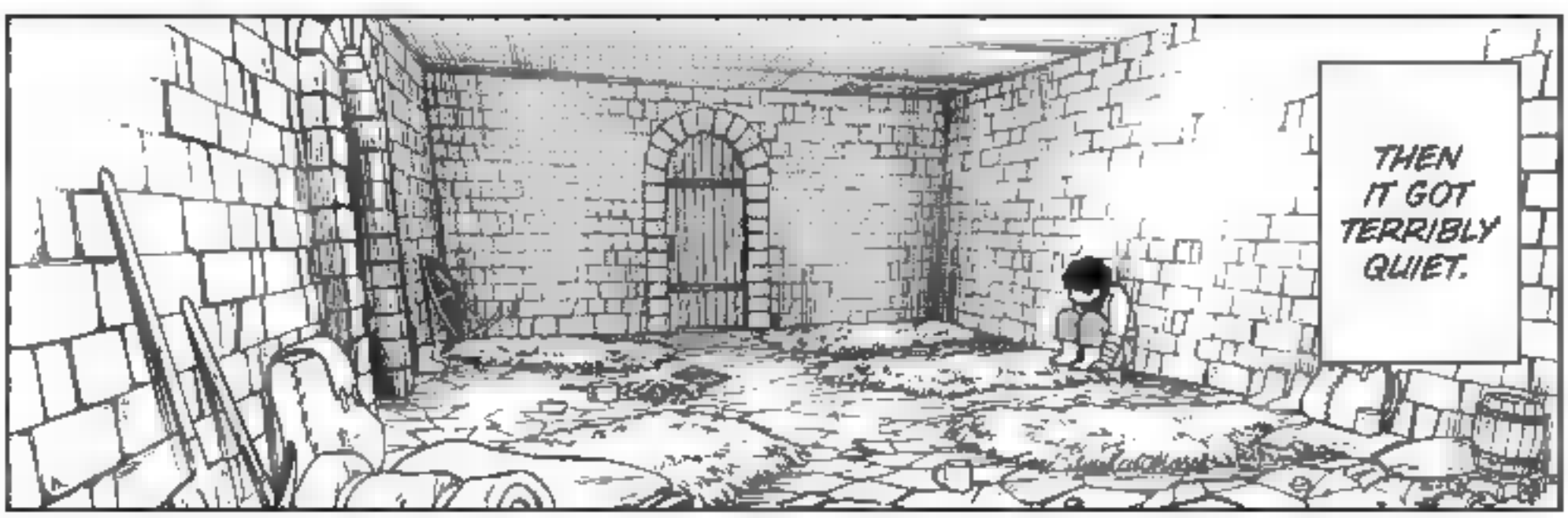
KORON (ROLL)

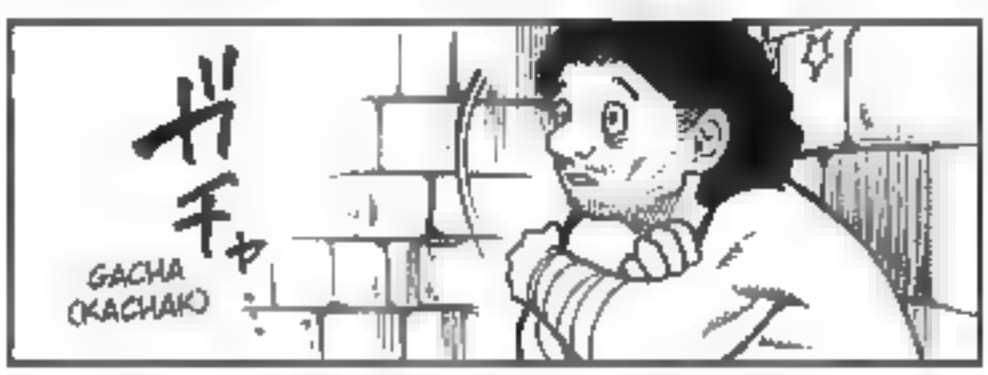
BA (LUNGE)
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
THAT LITTLE ...!
LET'S TALK OUTSIDE.
SENSHI'S FRIGHT-ENED.

WHAT DID YOU JUST HIDE!?
YOU HAVE A STASH OF FOOD, DON'T YOU!!?


I HEARD CRASHING SOUNDS...
...AND SEVERAL SCREAMS.

THEIR ANGRY VOICES ...
...GREW FIERCER.


THEN IT GOT TERRIBLY QUIET.


ガチャ
GACHA (KACHAK)

...I WOULDN'T LOOK OUTSIDE.
THE GRIFFIN ATTACKED US.

BIKU (FLINCH)
YOU STAY PUT!!

GILLIN!? WHAT HAP-PENED !?
WHERE'S BRIGAN ...?

...THERE WAS A DENT, AS IF HE'D BEEN STRUCK WITH A BLUNT OBJECT.

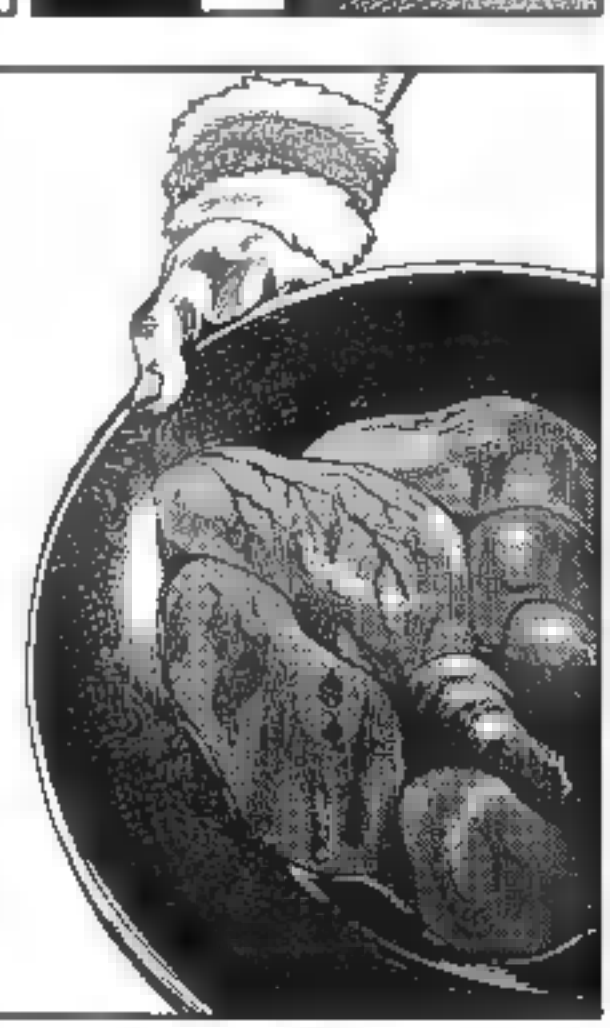
OH!
WHEN I LOOKED AT GILLIN'S HEAD...

I KILLED THE MONSTER ...
...BUT BRIGAN DIED INSTANT-LY.

FURA (GOTTERY)
I'LL BUTCHER IT...
...THEN TURN IT INTO SOUP.
THAT'LL KEEP US ALIVE A WHILE.

LET'S EAT THAT GRIFFIN.

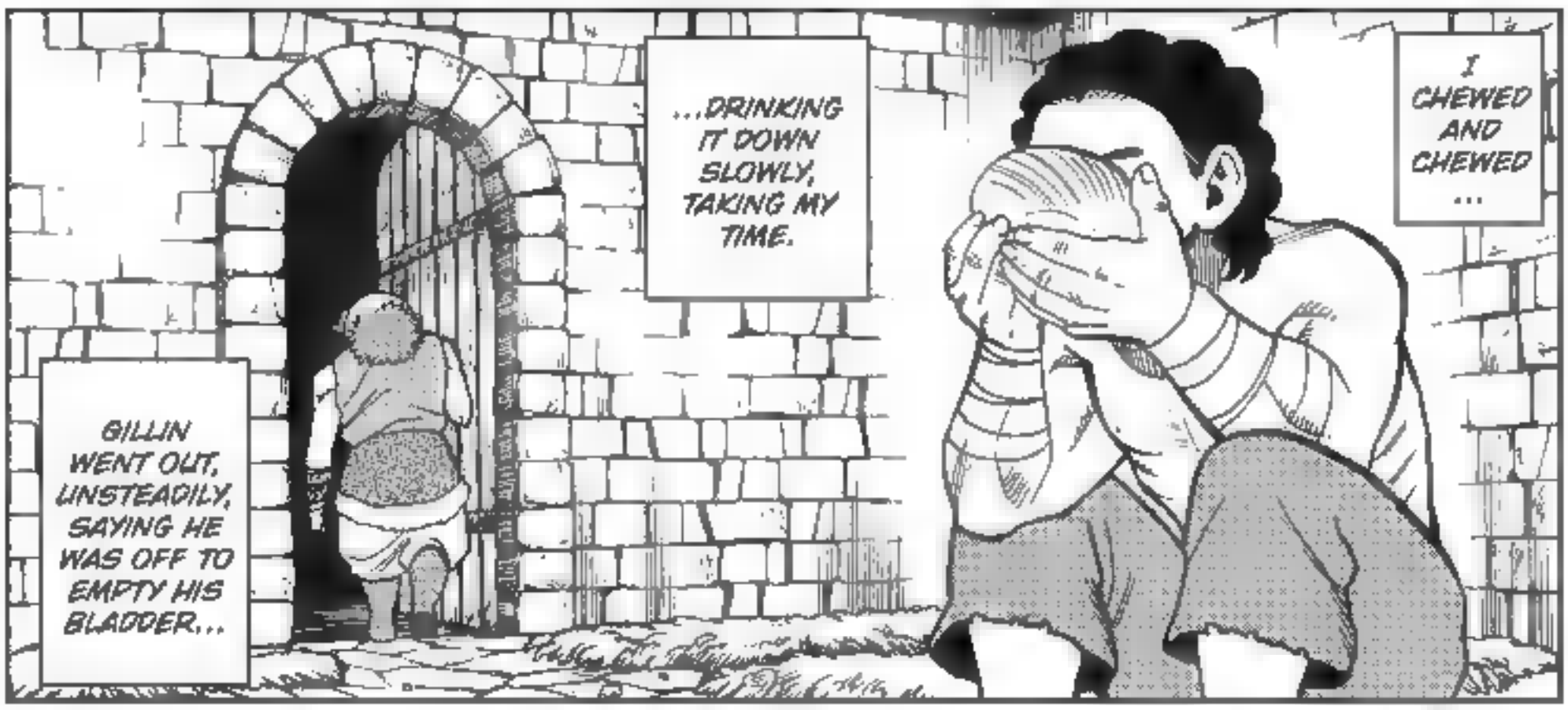
.....
NEVER MIND THAT.



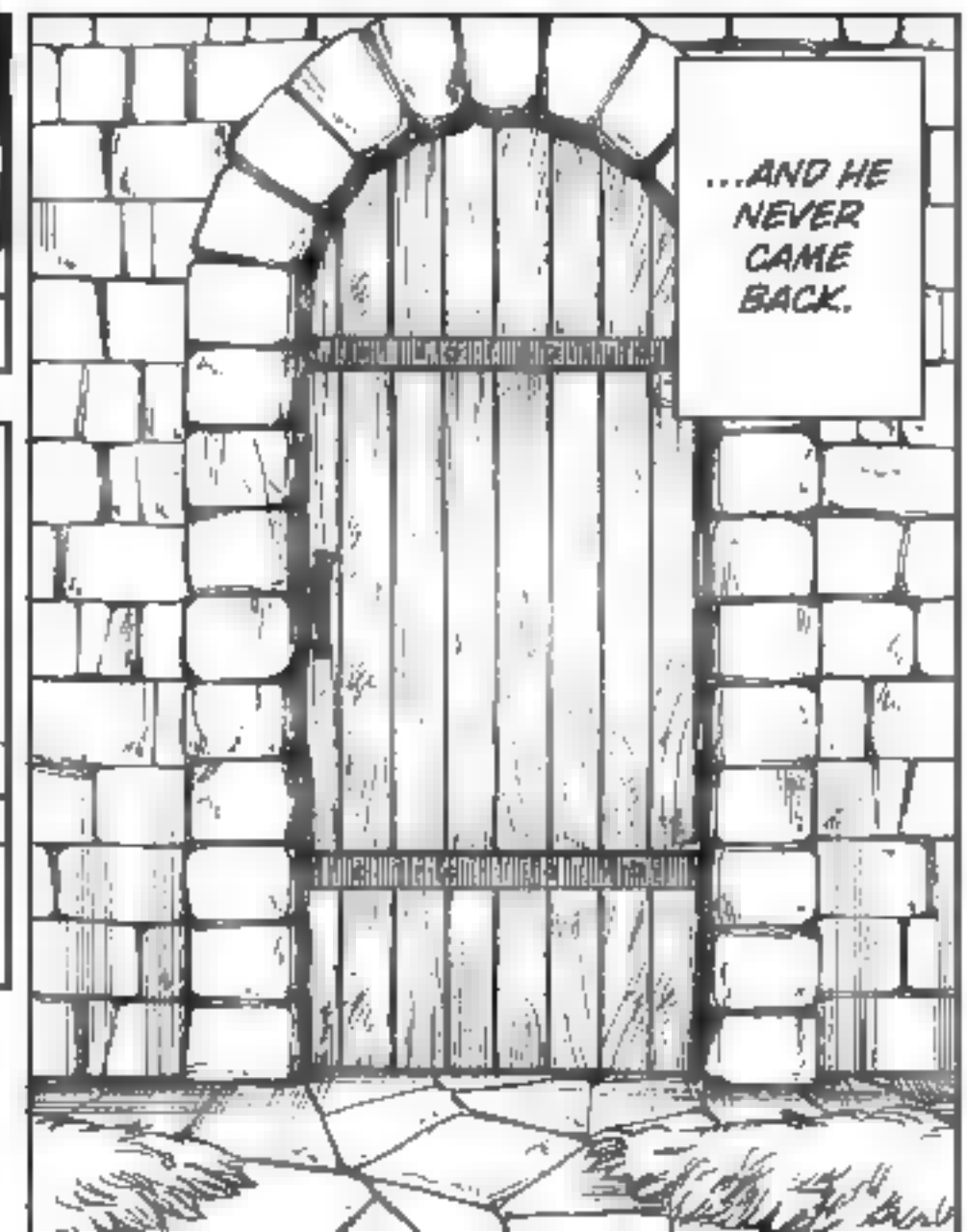
...BUT I COULDN'T STOP EATING IT.

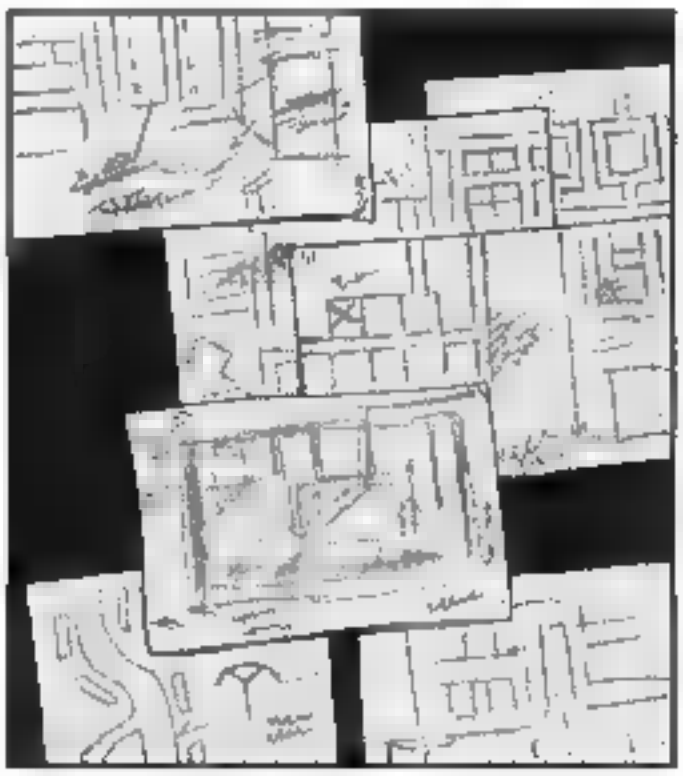
IT SMELLED GAMY, AND THE MEAT WAS TOUGH. IT TASTED AWFUL...
ゴクリ
GOKURI (GULP)

THE SOUP JUST GRIFFIN, BOILED IN WATER.


GILLIN WENT OUT, UNSTEADILY, SAYING HE WAS OFF TO EMPTY HIS BLADDER...
...DRINKING IT DOWN SLOWLY, TAKING MY TIME.
I CHEWED AND CHEWED ...

I'D BEEN LEFT ALL ALONE.


...AND HE NEVER CAME BACK.



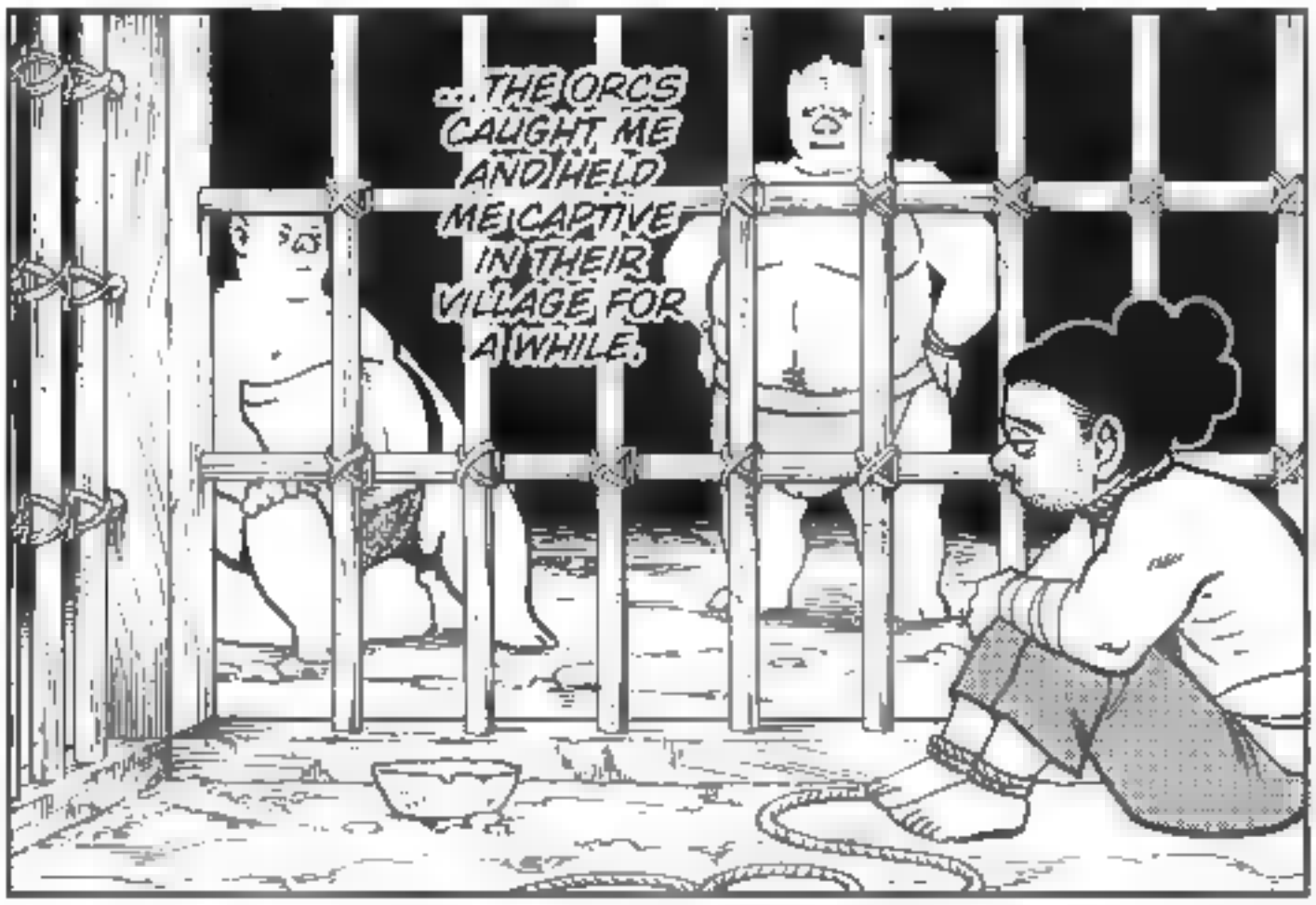
...I RATIONED THE REMAINING MEAT, LIVED ON THAT...
...AND PORED OVER ALL THE MAPS I'D DRAWN.

I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK BEYOND THAT DOOR, SO I COULDN'T LEAVE THE ROOM. HOWEVER...

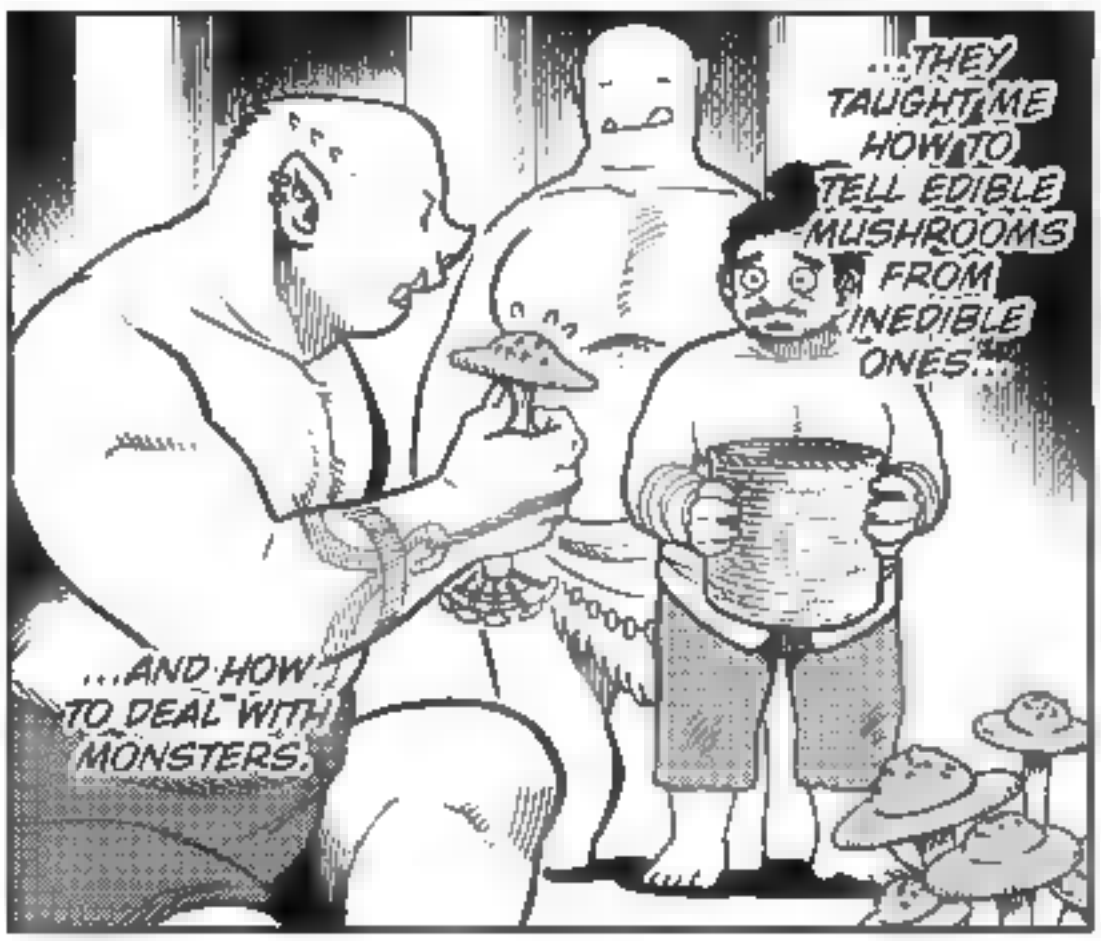
...AND WHEN I STEELED MYSELF AND LEFT THE ROOM...!

I FOUND THE LAW BEHIND THE CODES ON THE WALLS...

THERE WERE NO CORPSES.
VARIOUS CREATURES MUST HAVE POLISHED THEM OFF.


...THE ORCS CAUGHT ME AND HELD ME CAPTIVE IN THEIR VILLAGE FOR A WHILE.

AFTER THAT...


...THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO TELL EDIBLE MUSHROOMS FROM INEDIBLE ONES...
...AND HOW TO DEAL WITH MONSTERS.

OHHH. SO THAT'S WHAT THAT MEANS.
AS IT TURNED OUT, THEY WERE A SURPRISINGLY GOOD-NATURED BUNCH.
I TAUGHT THEM ANCIENT DWARFISH, AND IN EXCHANGE...

AND SO...

...I MADE IT OUT.

FINALLY, THE DUNGEON CONNECTED TO THE TOWN ON THE SURFACE...
...AND CROWDS OF ADVENTURERS STARTED COMING THROUGH.

...I JUST COULDN'T GO BACK TO MY HOMETOWN.
...WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED...
I LIVED NEAR THE DUNGEON AND IN ITS UPPER LEVELS.

BUT...

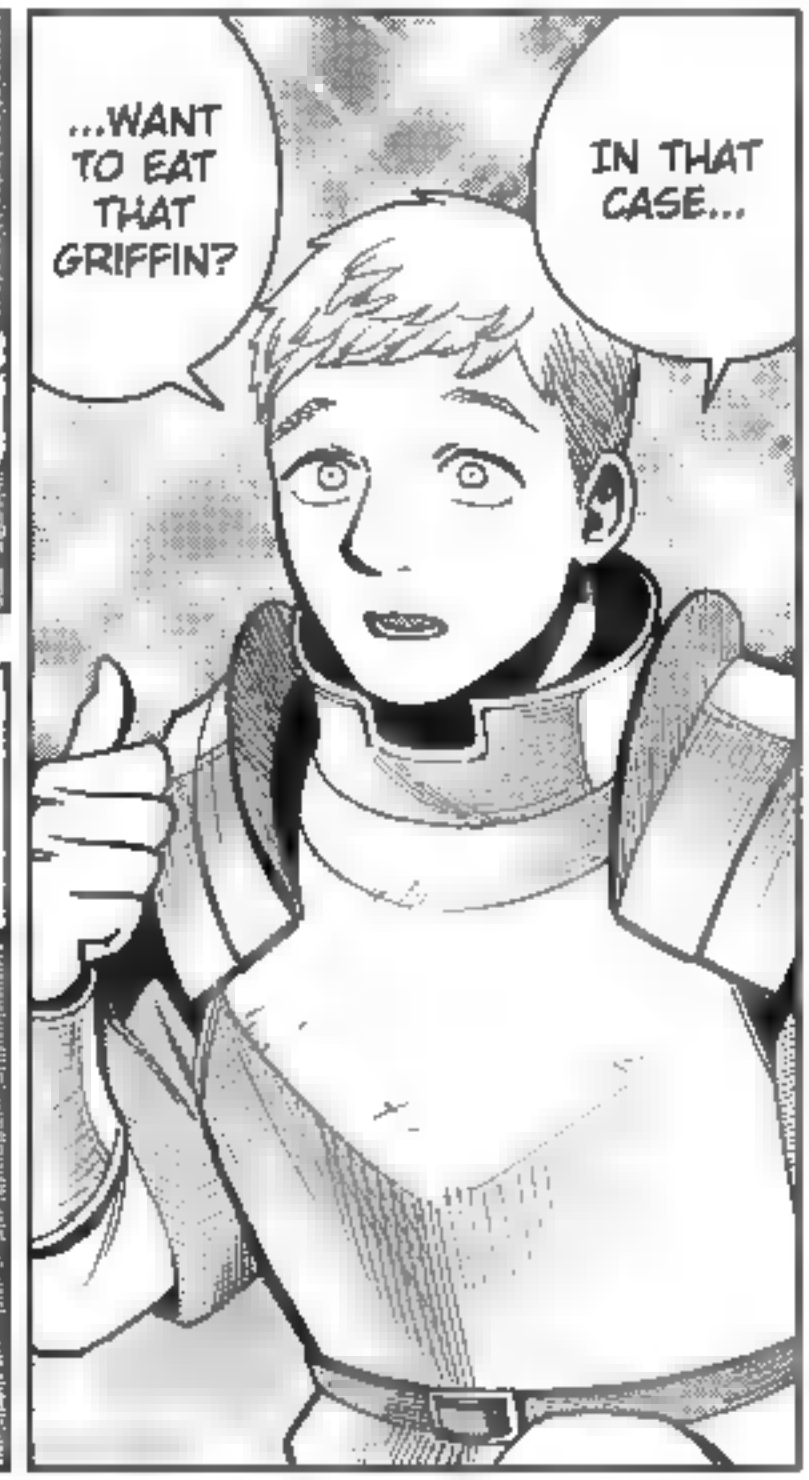
THE MEAT TASTED NOTHING LIKE ANY MONSTER I'VE EATEN.

EVERY TIME I EAT SOMETHING, I REMEMBER THAT SOUP.

WHAT WEIGHED ON MY MIND...

...WAS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THAT HAD REALLY BEEN GRIFFIN MEAT.

HUH!?


...WANT TO EAT THAT GRIFFIN?
IN THAT CASE...

THE MAN WHO MADE THE SOUP WOULDN'T WANT THAT.
IF THAT [redacted] THROUGH YOUR MIND AT EVERY MEAL, YOU'LL MISS OUT.
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
UH, NO, IT'LL BE A LOT BIGGER.

IF IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, THEN... THAT'S TOO BAD.
BUT THE KNOT IN YOUR HEART WILL BE GONE.
IF IT TASTES THE SAME, YOU CAN RELAX.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, SENSHI?

SENSHI...
I SHOULD PROBABLY EAT IT.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
OKAY. IN THAT CASE...
PAN (SMACK)
THE FRONT AND REAR HALVES MAY TASTE TOTALLY DIFFERENT...
...SO WE'LL TAKE FROM BOTH!
YOU JUST WANT TO EAT IT.
WE'LL JUST CUT THE MEAT OUT WITHOUT DOING MUCH TO IT.
...LET'S RE-CREATE THE ORIGINAL METHOD AS CLOSELY AS WE CAN.

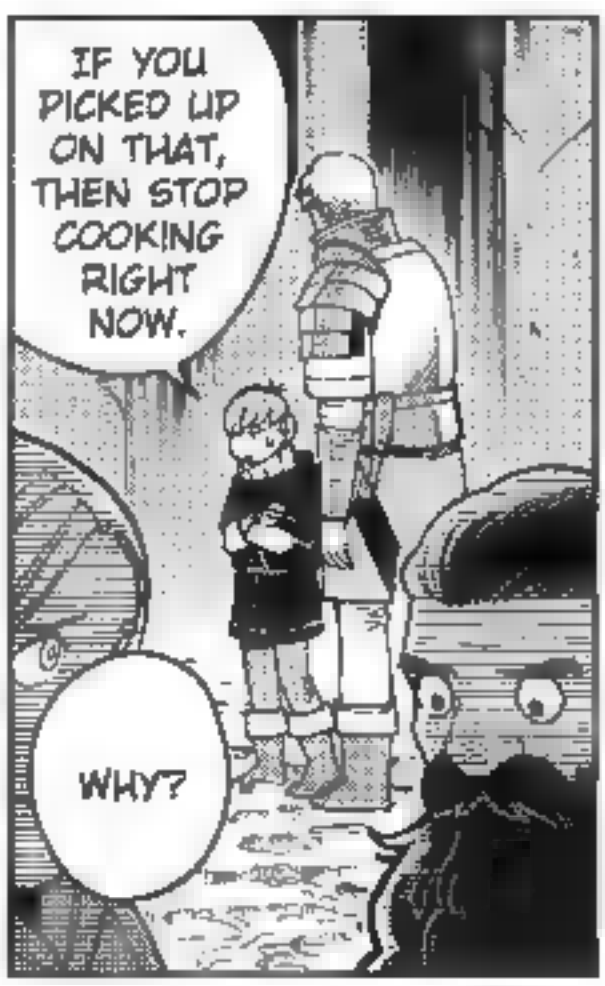
CARNIVORE...
I WONDER WHY THE GRIFFIN WAS SO STUBBORN ABOUT CHASING YOU.

WHAT INCREDIBLE MUSCLES.
THAT'S A CARNIVORE FOR YOU.

ZORI (SAW)
ZORI

WAIT...
WHY DIDN'T IT ATTACK THE HORSE FIRST, THEN?
NO IDEA.
I'LL HEAT SOME WATER.

OH! YOU SAID YOU HAD A HORSE, DIDN'T YOU?
IT KILLED PEOPLE, BUT IT DIDN'T EAT THEM, RIGHT?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY.
GRIFFINS LOVE TO EAT HORSES.


IF YOU PICKED UP ON THAT, THEN STOP COOKING RIGHT NOW.
WHY?

WAS THERE A BIG ENOUGH REASON TO DRIVE IT OUT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD DO THAT.
WHAT COULD IT HAVE BEEN?
HISO (WHISPER)
HEY. LAIOS.

GRIFFINS ARE PATIENT ...
...BUT THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE TO HUNT FAR FROM THEIR OWN TERRITORIES.

GRIFFINS FIGHT WITH THEIR FRONT TALONS AND BEAK.
AN ATTACK WITH THOSE WOULDN'T LEAVE A MARK LIKE THAT!
RIGHT.

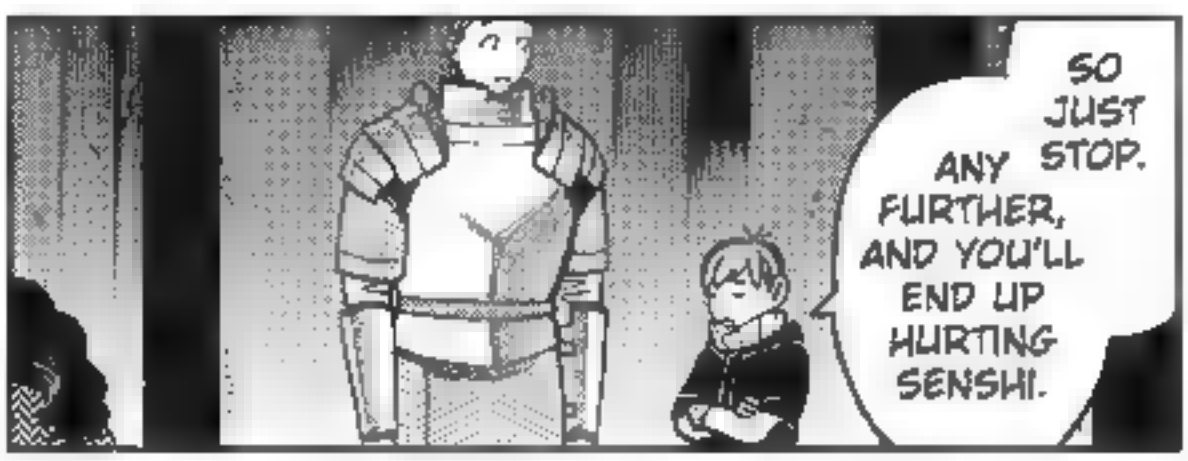
WHO DO YOU THINK PUT THAT DENT "FROM A BLUNT OBJECT" IN GILLIN'S HELMET?

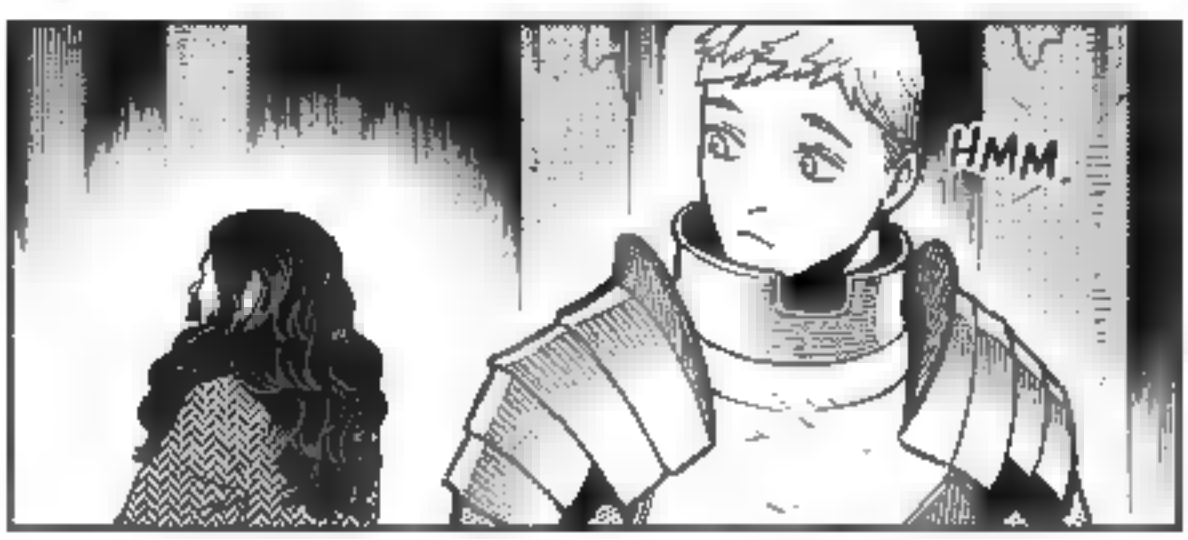
A BLUNT INSTRU-MENT...
AH!
OH!

GILLIN KILLED BRIGAN ...
...AND HE TOOK A BLOW TO THE HEAD.

THAT ARGU-MENT TURNED INTO A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

IN OTHER WORDS ...
...GILLIN WASN'T WHACKED BY THE GRIFFIN!


SO JUST STOP. ANY FURTHER, AND YOU'LL END UP HURTING SENSHI.

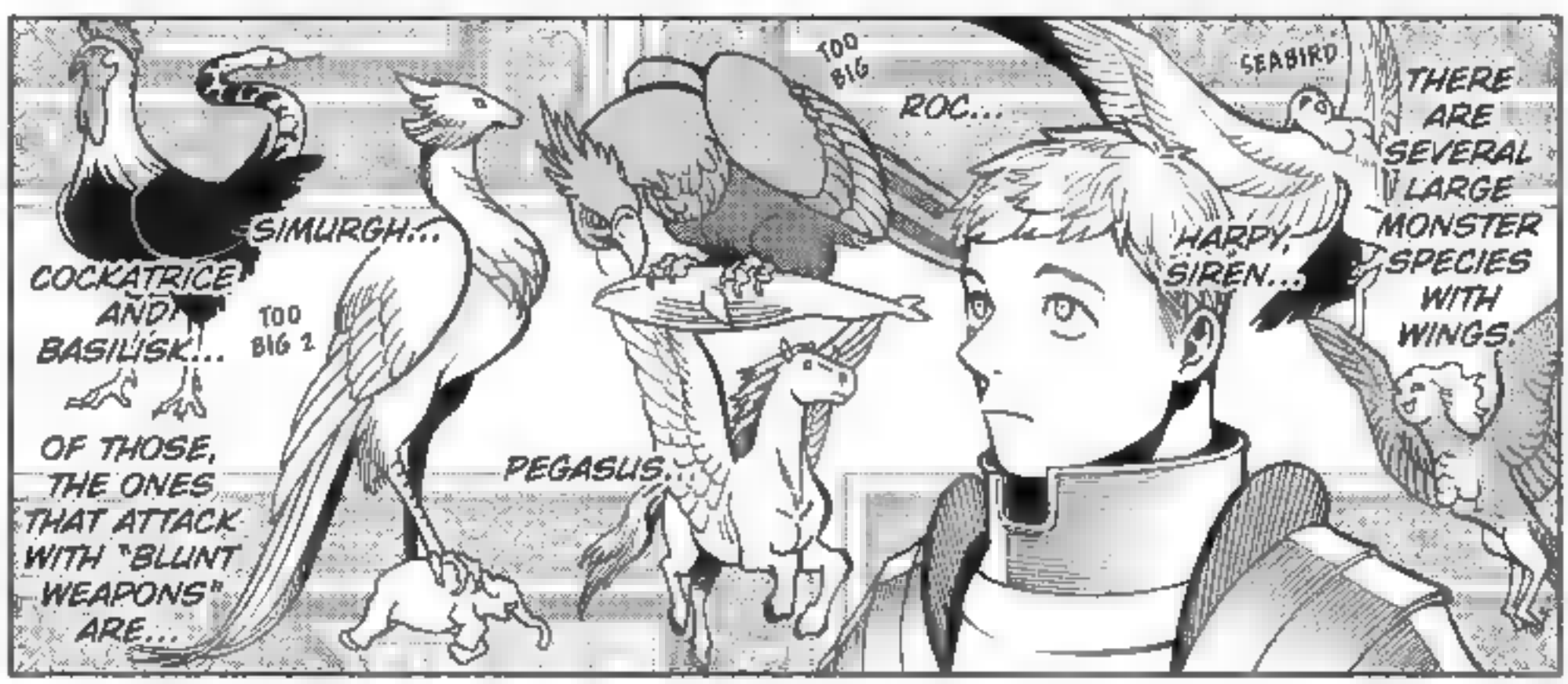

HMM.

WITH THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH, GILLIN TOOK THAT MEAT, AND...
THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED.

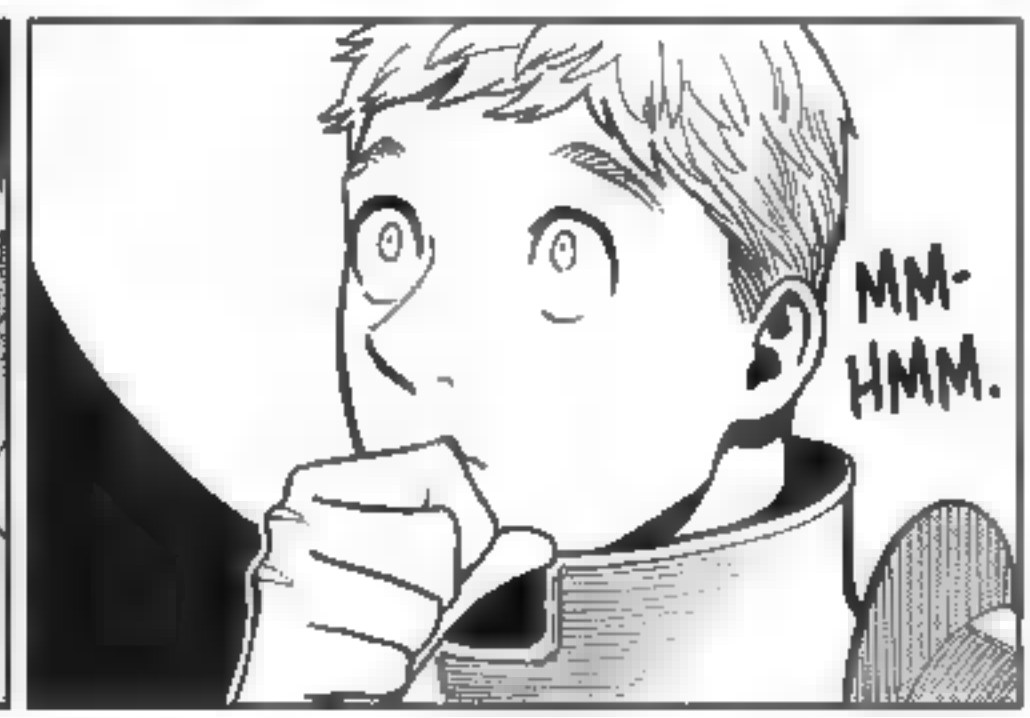
...THEN WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THREE?
HE SAID THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A "BIRD MONSTER."

WE CONFUSED THE GRIFFIN FOR FALIN.
COULD IT HAVE BEEN SOME OTHER MONSTER?

BUT...


COCKATRICE AND BASILISK...
SIMURGH...
TOO BIG 1
TOO BIG
ROC...
SEABIRD
THERE ARE SEVERAL LARGE MONSTER SPECIES WITH WINGS.
HARPY, SIREN...
OF THOSE, THE ONES THAT ATTACK WITH "BLUNT WEAPONS" ARE...
PEGASUS...

THE WATER'S BOILING.


MM-HMM.

IT'S GOING TO BE VERY PLAIN.
WE COULD AT LEAST GARNISH IT...

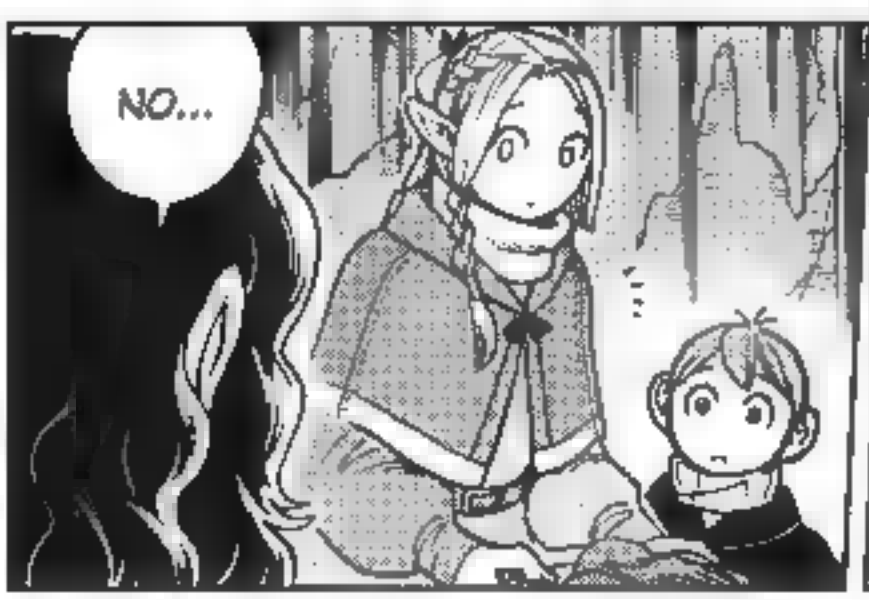
WE'RE JUST BOIL-ING IT AS IS ?
NO OTHER INGREDI-ENTS...?
THAT'S ALL.

HUH?
MAR-CILLE.
TAKE CARE OF THE REST!

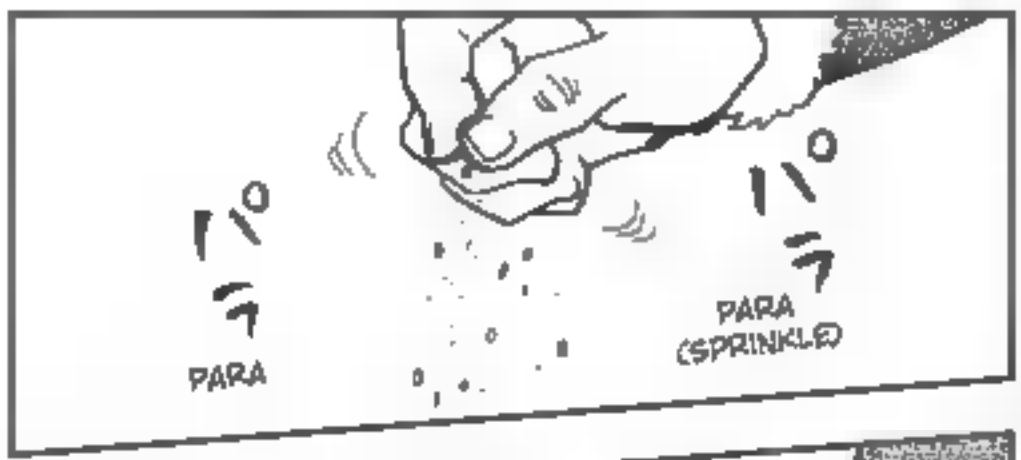
HM...
MM-HM, MM-HM.

NOPE. FIRST TIME.
...BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THOSE BEFORE?
BY THE WAY, YOU SAID THE ORCS TAUGHT YOU HOW TO IDENTIFY MUSH-ROOMS...

IF WE DO THIS, SENSHI WILL JUST...
ENOUGH.
WE'RE DONE HERE.

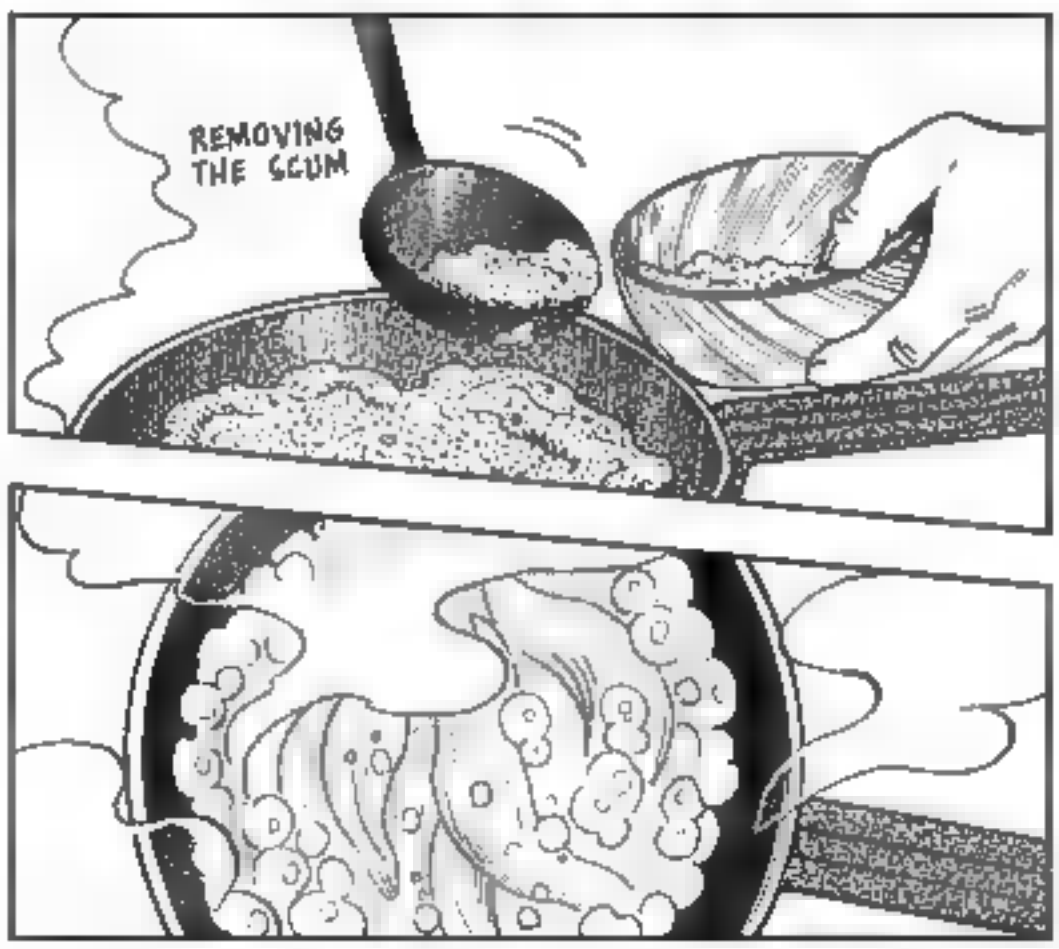

NO...

YOU GET THIS FAR, AND THEN YOU JUST DROP IT?
EXCUSE ME!?
FICKLE MUCHI?

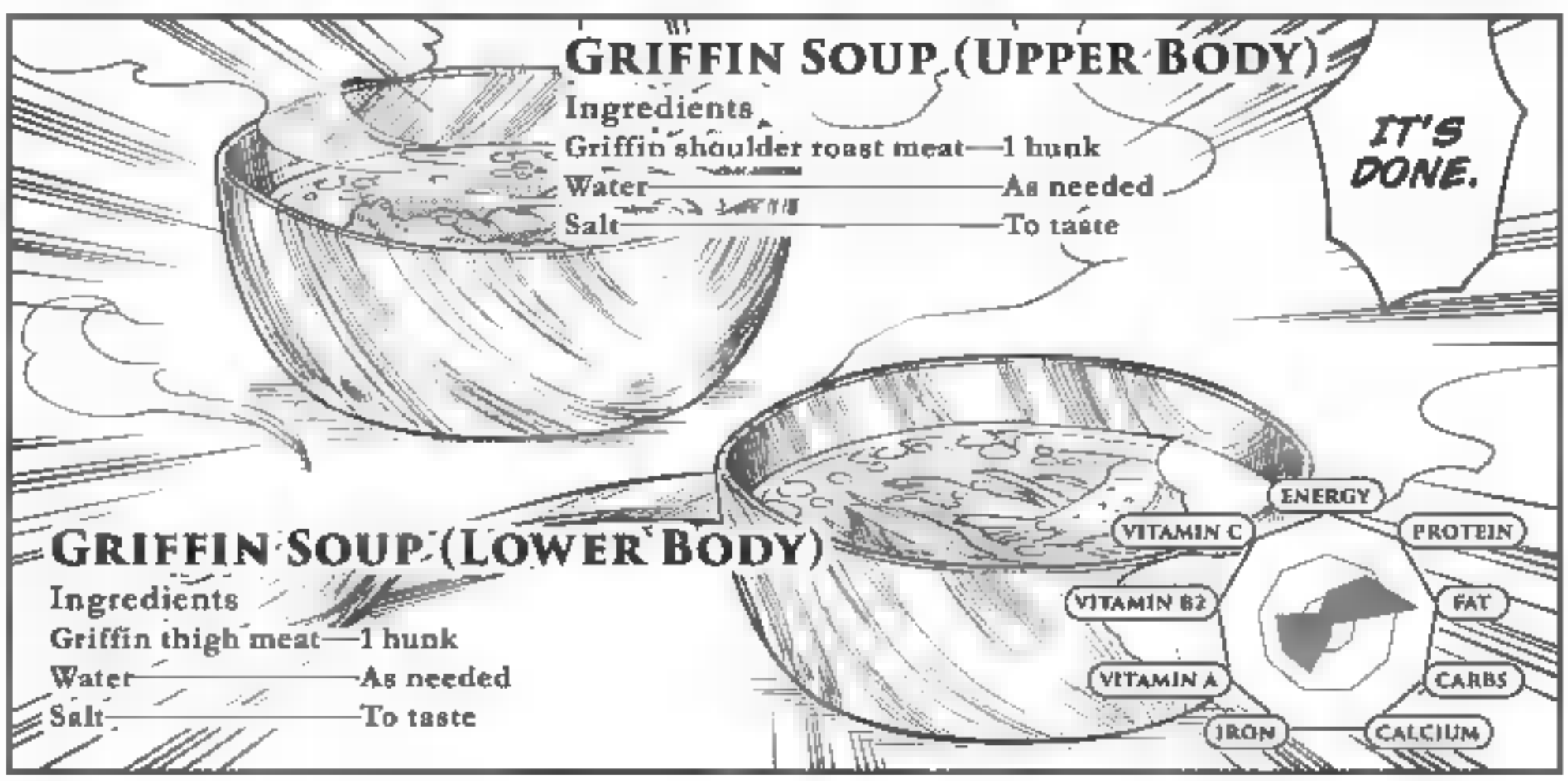

PARA
PARA (SPRINKLE)

GUI
GUI (KNEAD)

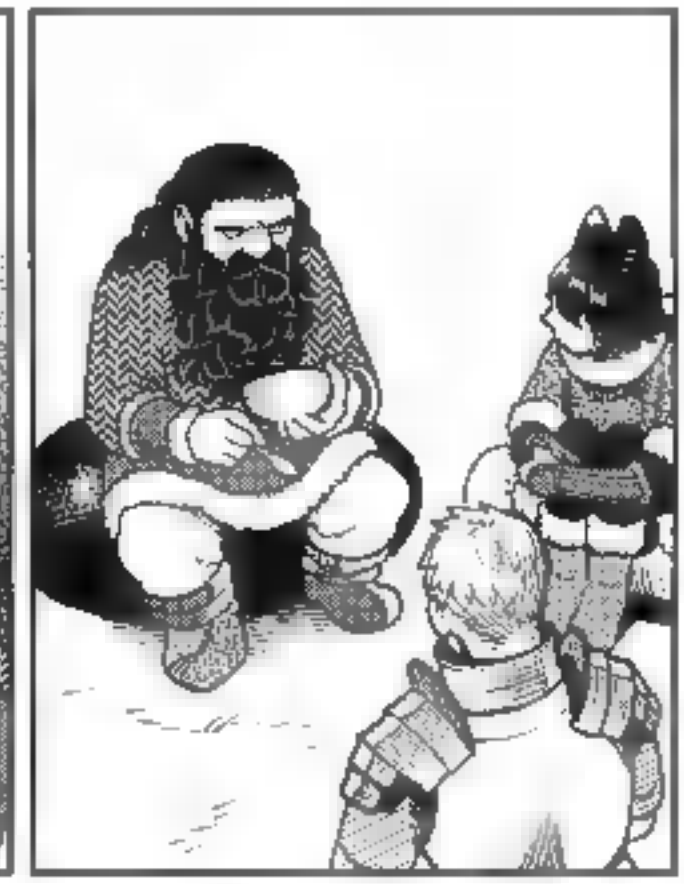
WE'VE COME THIS FAR. LET ME EAT IT.
I CAN HANDLE THE RESULTS, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ARE.


REMOVING THE SCUM

GUTSU (BURBLE)
GUTSU
BOCHA (SPLASH)
CHA


GRIFFIN SOUP (UPPER BODY)
Ingredients
Griffin shoulder roast meat—1 hunk
Water—As needed
Salt—To taste
IT'S DONE.
GRIFFIN SOUP (LOWER BODY)
Ingredients
Griffin thigh meat—1 hunk
Water—As needed
Salt—To taste
ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM

ZU (SLURP)
ズ!!



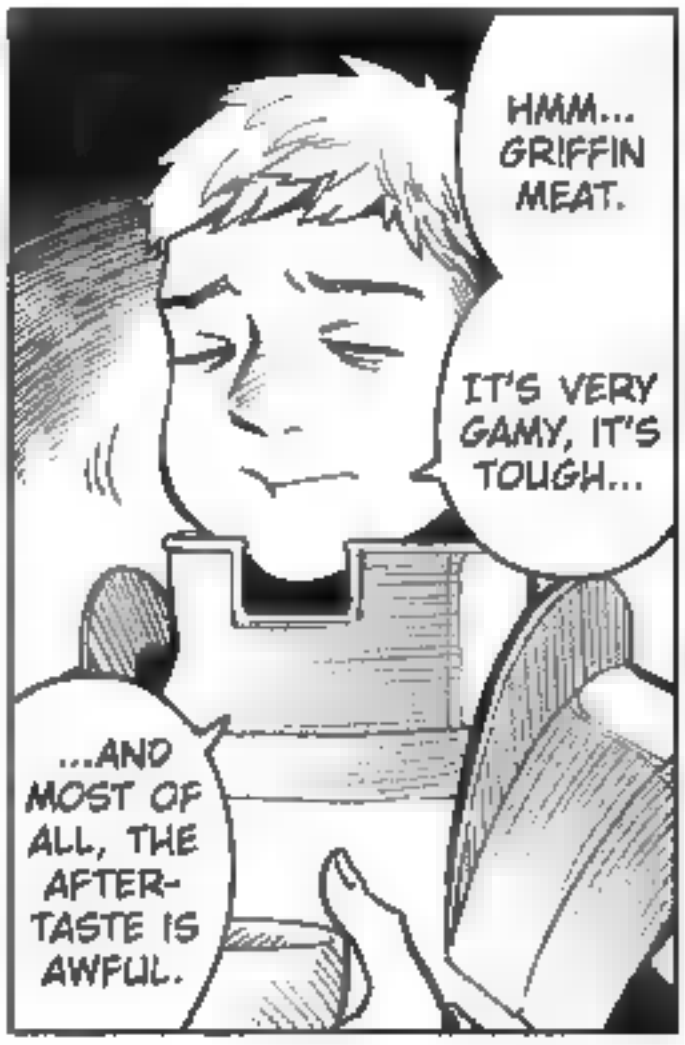
TH-THIS IS...
THIS SMELL... TASTE... TEXTURE...

I SUP-POSE...
...WHAT I ATE REALLY WAS.....
...NOTHING LIKE WHAT I ATE BACK THEN.

HE MUST'VE WANTED ME TO LIVE, NO MATTER WHAT.
I'LL SHOULDER THAT WISH ...

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND.

HAAH...
YOU MEAN...

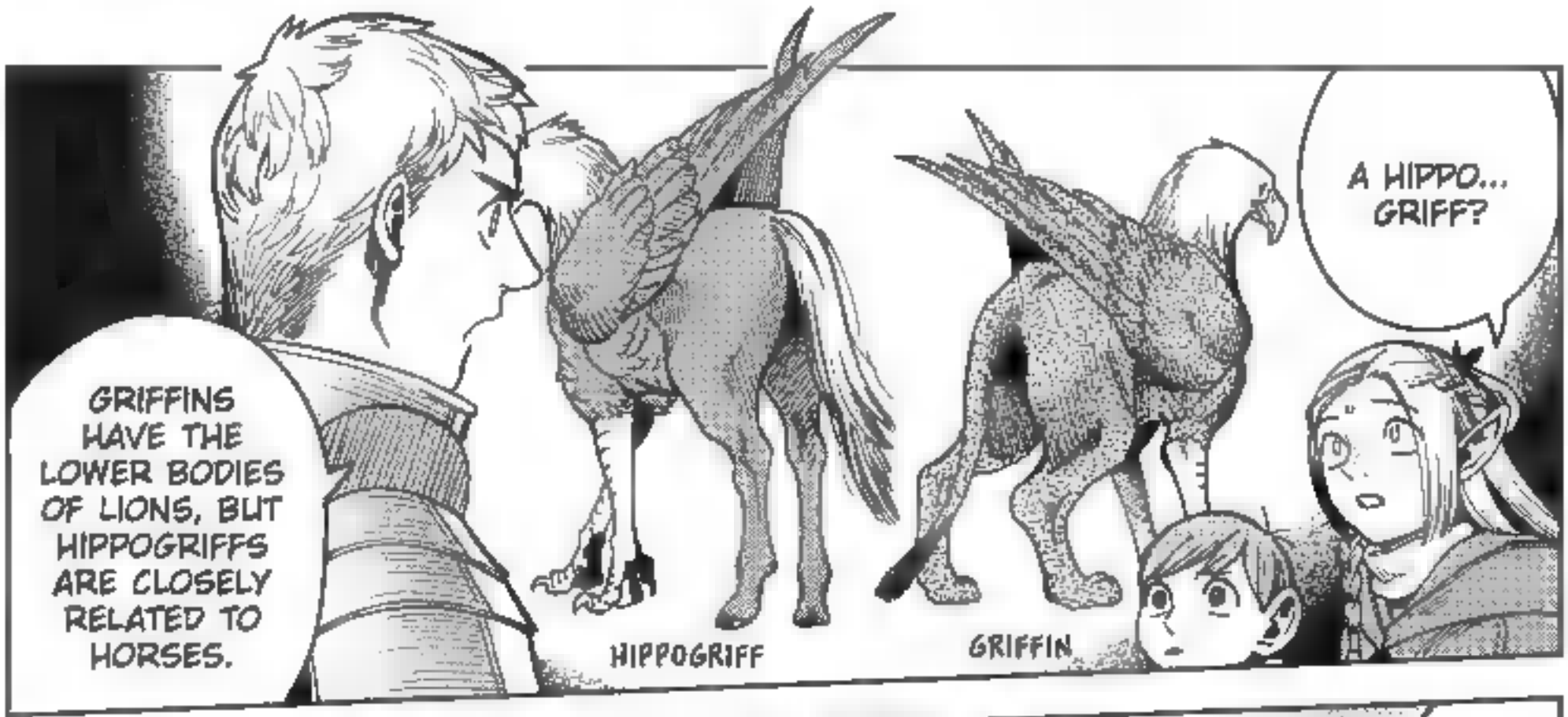

HMM... GRIFFIN MEAT.
IT'S VERY GAMY, IT'S TOUGH...
...AND MOST OF ALL, THE AFTER-TASTE IS AWFUL.

LAIOS, YOU MORON.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!?

AND IT WASN'T DWARF MEAT!
THEY WERE ATTACKED NOT BY A GRIFFIN, BUT BY A HIPPO-GRIFF.

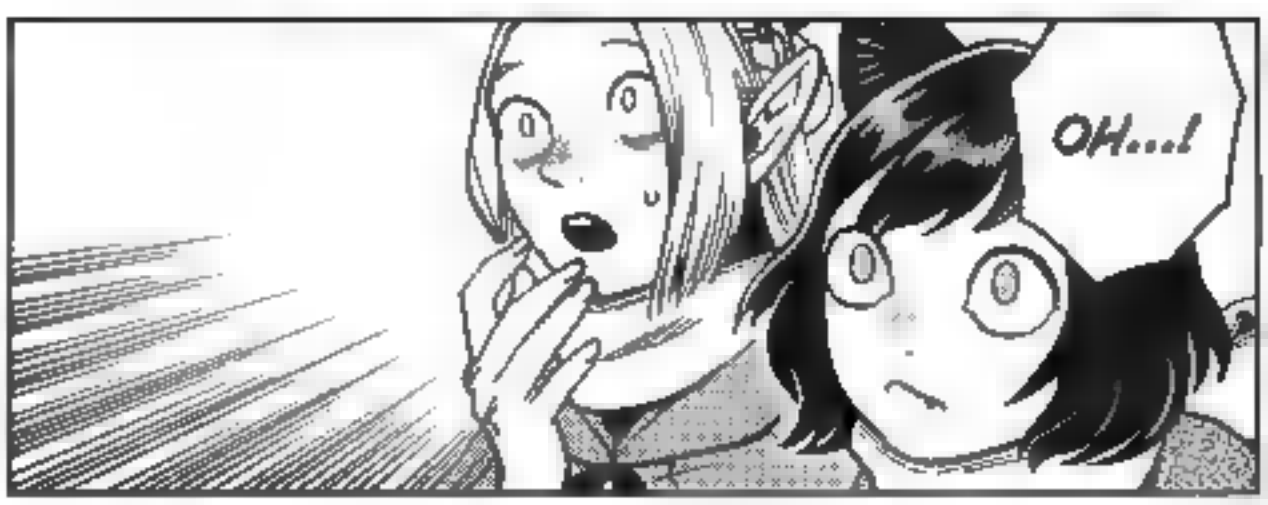
ACK...

RIGHT.
WHAT SENSHI ATE BACK THEN WASN'T GRIFFIN.


GRIFFINS HAVE THE LOWER BODIES OF LIONS, BUT HIPPOGRIFFS ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO HORSES.
HIPPOGRIFF
GRIFFIN
A HIPPO... GRIFF?

HIPPOGRIFFS ALSO HAVE A WEAPON GRIFFINS DON'T—
HIND LEGS WITH HOOVES.

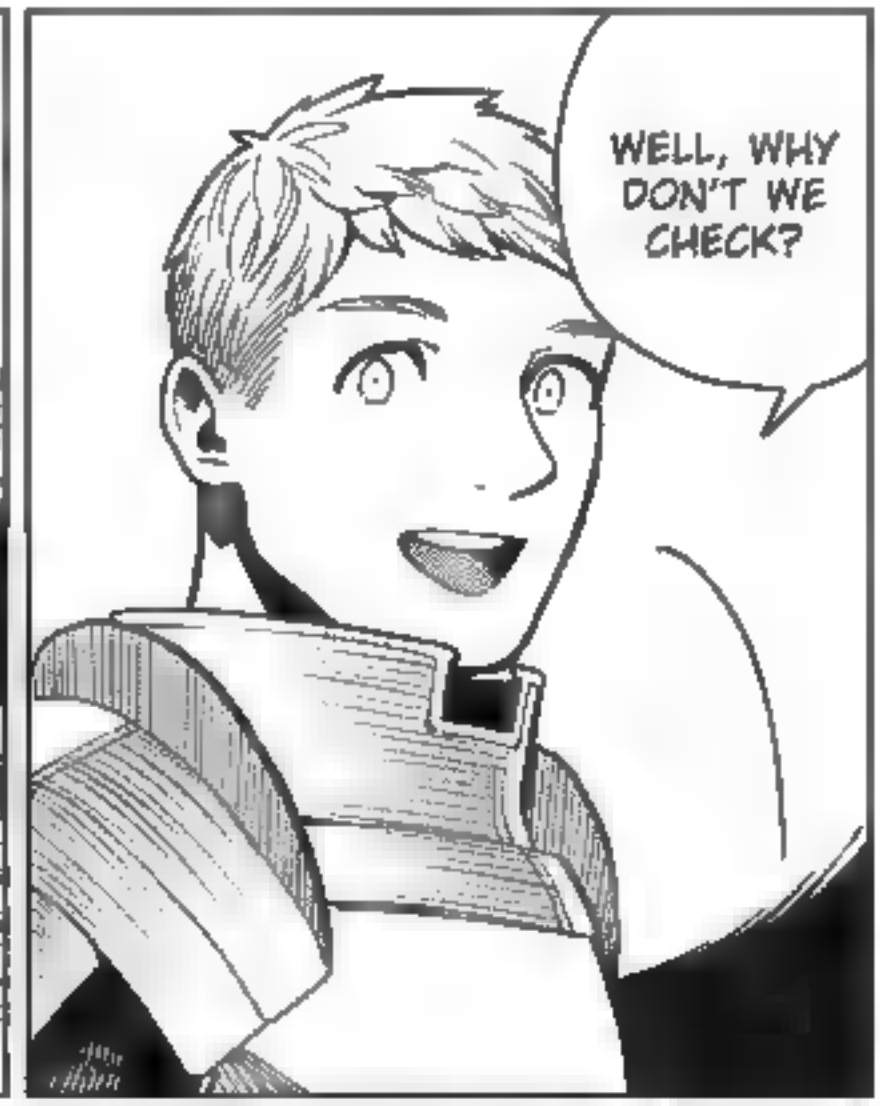
THEY LOOK SIMILAR BUT ACT DIFFER-ENT.
LIKES SWEET THINGS
YOURS WAS PROBABLY TENACIOUS ABOUT CHASING YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR HORSE.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CURIOUS OR IN HEAT.
SINCE THEY CAN DIGEST PLANTS, THEY AREN'T VERY ACTIVE HUNTERS.


OH...!

IF YOU GET KICKED BY THOSE, IT'S OVER.
THEY'LL EVEN PUT BIG HOLES IN METAL.

...THEN OF COURSE THIS SOUP TASTES DIFFERENT!
IF WHAT YOU ATE BACK THEN WAS HIPPOGRIFF...
I'M SURE OF IT, SENSHI!
HEH...
EVEN IF WE HAVE NO WAY TO SEE HOW HIPPOGRIFF TASTES.
HEARING THAT...IS A BIT OF A RELIEF.
HA HA.
THANKS, LAIOS.

LET'S ACTUALLY COMPARE THIS WITH HIPPOGRIFF MEAT.
HUH...?


WELL, WHY DON'T WE CHECK?

AND ANYWAY, THERE'S NO HIPPOGRIFF AROUND...
W-WEREN'T YOU JUST WRAPPING THINGS UP GENTLY?
"THE TRUTH ISN'T CLEAR, BUT THERE'S A RAY OF HOPE," LIKE THAT!?

SU (POINT)
BECAUSE AN "ACCOMPLICE" MUDDIED THE WATERS.
AN ACCOMPLICE?

WHY DIDN'T WE NOTICE THAT?
"WE FOUGHT A GRIFFIN THAT SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE."
WHY IS THAT?

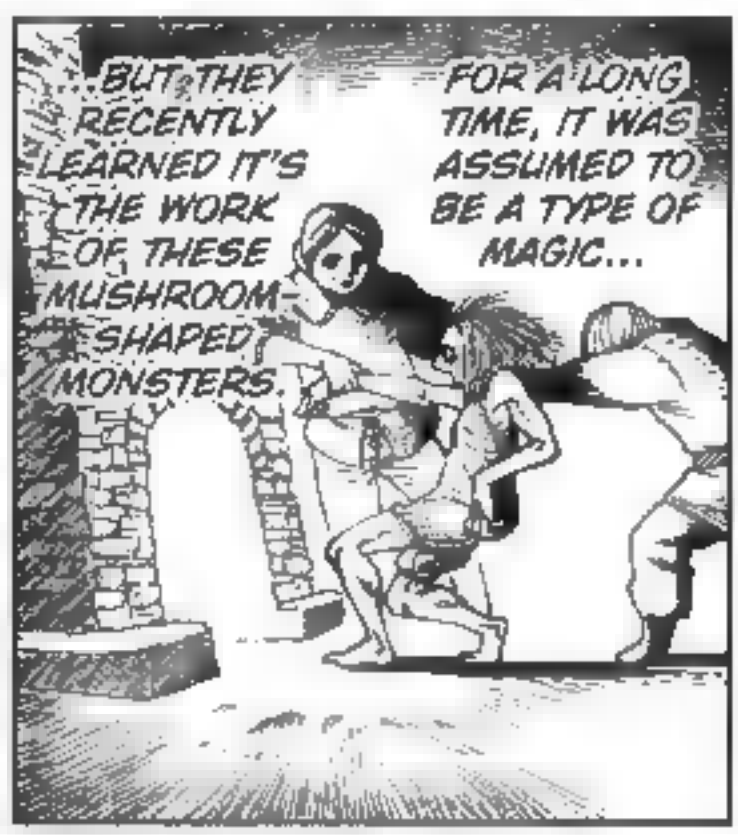
NO, THERE'S ONE RIGHT OVER THERE!
THEY'VE BEEN SIGHTED IN THIS DUNGEON BEFORE.

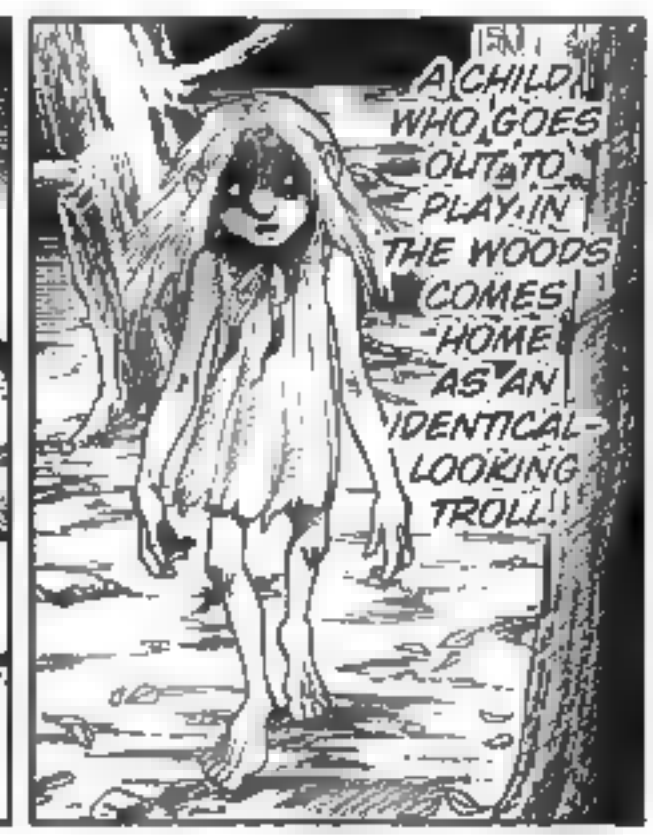
THAT LEGEND IS ORIGINALLY FROM YOUR AREA, ISN'T IT, CHILCHUCK?
AH...

IT'S A PHENOMENON WHERE CHILDREN SWITCHED WITH MONSTERS.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF CHANGELING CHILDREN?

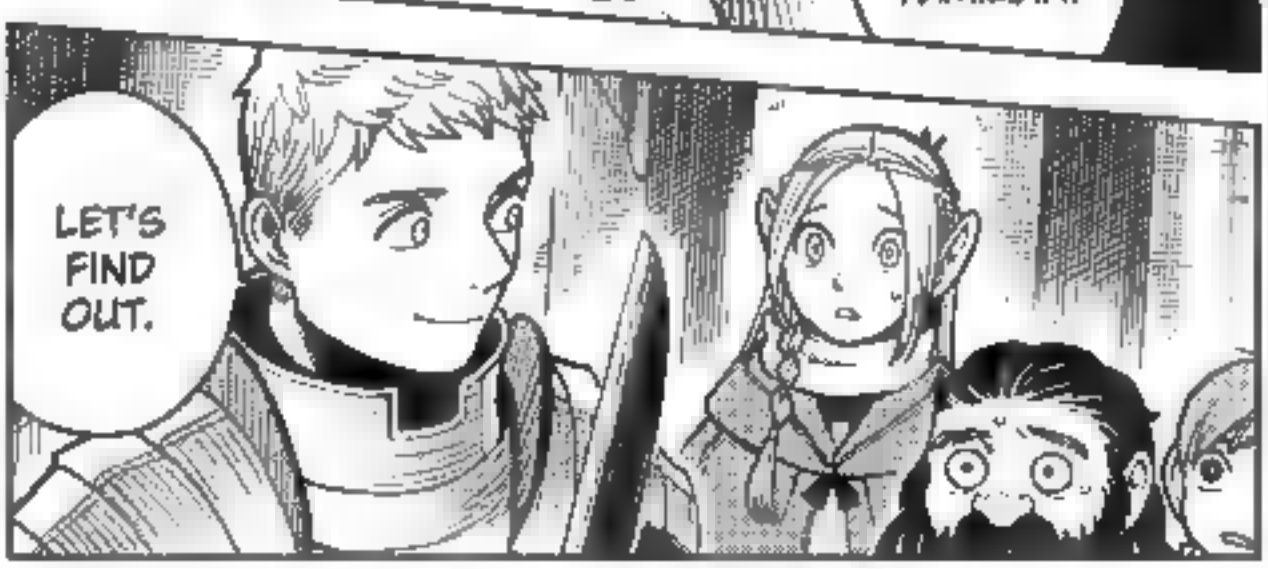
THEY'RE CHANGELINGS.

CREATURES THAT STEP INTO A RING OF THEM "CHANGE," JUST A LITTLE.


...BUT THEY RECENTLY LEARNED IT'S THE WORK OF THESE MUSHROOM-SHAPED MONSTERS.
FOR A LONG TIME, IT WAS ASSUMED TO BE A TYPE OF MAGIC...


A CHILD WHO GOES OUT TO PLAY IN THE WOODS COMES HOME AS AN IDENTICAL-LOOKING TROLL.

IT'S LIKELY THAT THE GRIFFIN WE FOUGHT WAS REALLY...
THE WAY IT GRABBED SENSHI BUT DIDN'T EAT HIM.
THE SHARP KICK THAT KILLED THE FAMILIAR.


LET'S FIND OUT.

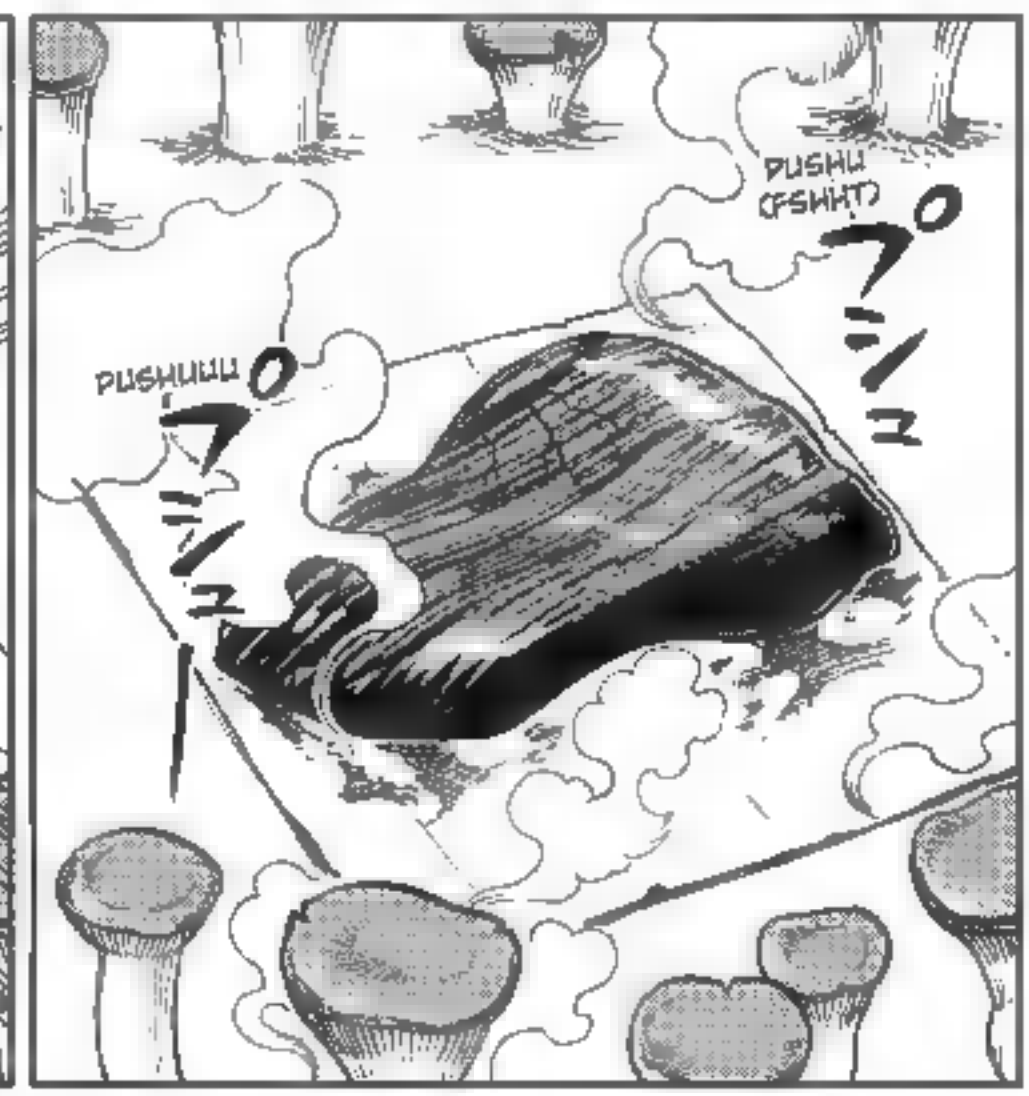
ONCE PEOPLE KNEW THAT, THEY GOT RID OF THEM, AND THEY'RE RARE NOW.
TO THINK THEY'D BE GROWING HERE...
WAS IT THE TEMPERATURE CHANGES?

DON'T SCREW UP AND STEP IN THERE.
SO (SHF)
WOULD I GET TO TURN INTO A TROLL?

...AND SET IT IN A CHANGE-LING FAIRY RING.

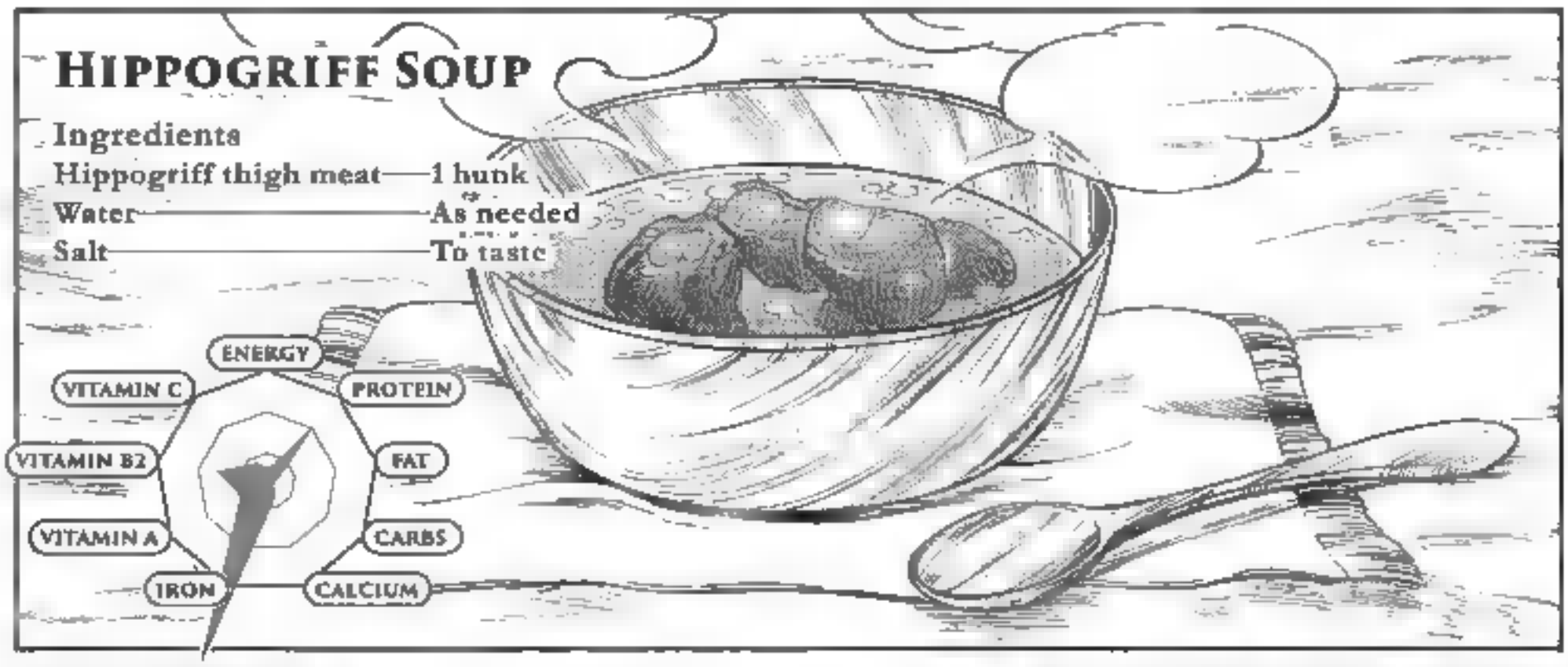
TAKE GRIFFIN MEAT...

JIWARI (SEEP)
OH!


PUSHU (FSHHT)
PUSHUUU

OKAY. LET'S MAKE SOUP FROM THIS.

THE MEAT LOOKS DIFFER-ENT!
THAT'S JUST NUTS.
IT'S MARBLED WITH FAT NOW. IT LOOKS TASTY.


HIPPOGRIFF SOUP
Ingredients
Hippogriff thigh meat—1 hunk
Water—As needed
Salt—To taste
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C

BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU

ZU (SLURP)

NO.
THAT'S NOT IT.

S-SENSHI !?
W-WELL, FLAVOR CAN CHANGE QUITE A BIT DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, SO I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH...

NH.
UUU...
PORO (DROP)

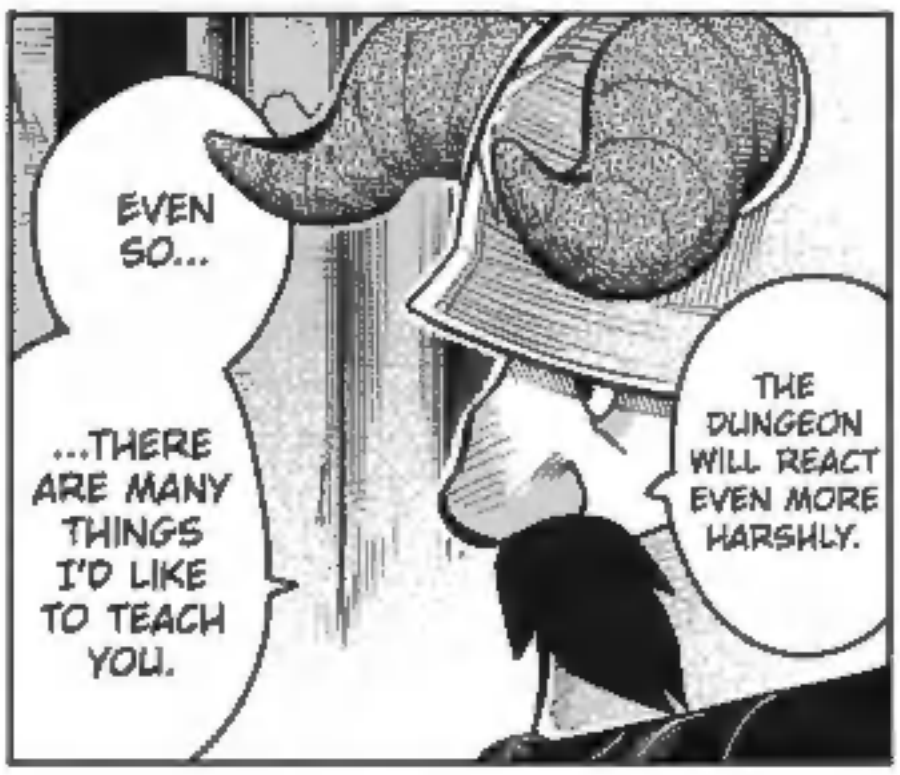
THANK YOU. ALL OF YOU.
THANK YOU.

I'VE ALWAYS...
...ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE THIS SOUP ONE MORE TIME.

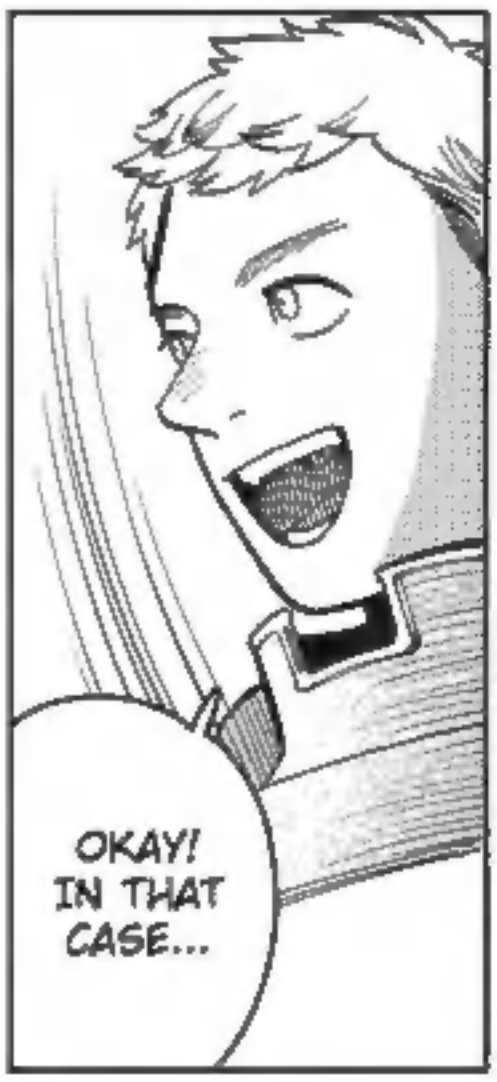
WEALTH, KNOWLEDGE, FAME...
THIS DUNGEON RESPONDS INTENSELY TO HUMAN DESIRES.

LIVING IN THE DUNGEON FOR SO LONG HAS SHOWN ME SOMETHING.

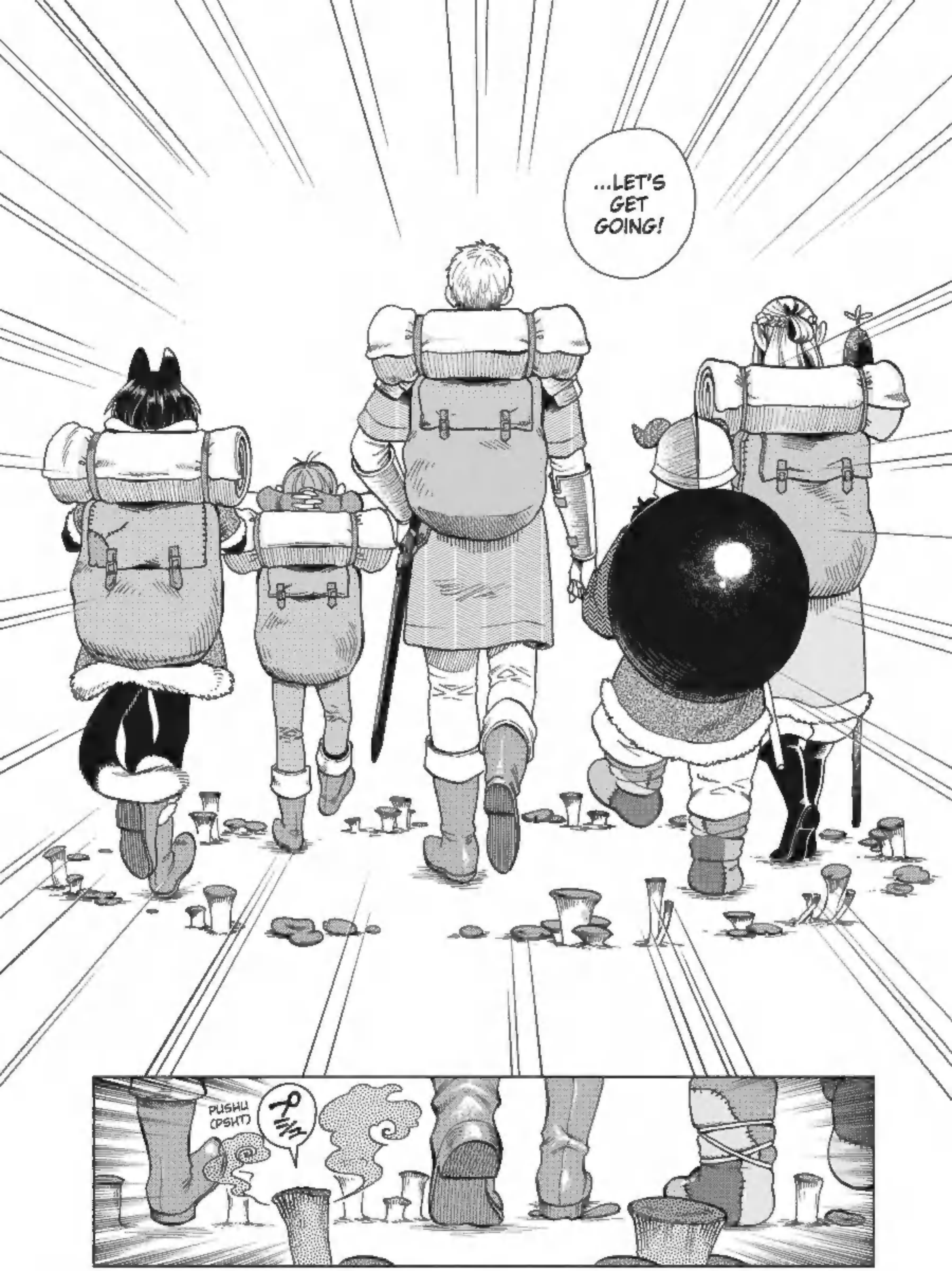
...BUT THE MOMENT YOU "WANT," IT BARES ITS FANGS.
SNUFFLE...
IT'S LENIENT TO THOSE WHO ASK NOTHING OF IT, LIKE THE ORCS...


EVEN SO...
...THERE ARE MANY THINGS I'D LIKE TO TEACH YOU.
THE DUNGEON WILL REACT EVEN MORE HARSHLY.

...YOU'LL SEEK THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN AND THE WINGED LION.
AND YOU'LL WANT TO BREAK THE SPELL.
FROM NOW ON...
...ON TOP OF YOUR GOAL OF RETAKING FALIN...


OKAY! IN THAT CASE...

YES. OF COURSE!
WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?


...LET'S GET GOING!
PUSHU (PSHT)

To be continued...